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BY FRED BRAMANTE

GRANITE VIEWS

The legacy of Craig Benson



Years after the defeat of Gov. Craig Benson by Gov. John Lynch, we are starting to realize the fruits of Benson's work.

Benson's legacy will be competency-based education; New Hampshire was the first state in the country to implement it statewide. Today, New Hampshire is receiving accolades from high places, including the U.S. Department of Education and the Education Commission of the States for its work.

As Governor Benson's appointee to the chairmanship of the State Board of Education, I received specific marching orders from him: "Fred, I want you to start with a clean sheet of paper. Challenge everything."

During the state board retreat just prior to my first meeting as chairman, I explained my charge from the governor. It was an uncomfortable moment because I was the only Benson appointee and the others were appointed by Gov. Jeanne Shaheen. I understood that if not handled well, this could come off as a lack of appreciation for the work done by the board. I tried very hard to walk that fine line. I was only marginally successful.

After some initial acrimony, our cooperation improved, and, in the end, the logic of the concept of an anytime, anyplace, personalized system of learning won out. So, despite our initial friction, Democrats and Republicans came together on a new concept of public education.

Upon Benson's loss to Lynch, I feared that our two years of hard work would be discarded by the new administration. I was wrong. A new governor, commissioner and state board chairman all continued the work, passing it into state regulations and working to improve the process. Today, yet another commissioner, Dr. Virginia Barry, and new state board chair, Tom Raffio, continue to bring competency-based learning to levels not seen anywhere else in America.

Thanks to the Benson administration concept combined with Lynch's raising the dropout age to 18, New Hampshire shocked the nation with dropout statistics that went from 25 percent in 2002 ("One in Four," New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies) to less than 5 percent in 2011 (New Hampshire Department of Education).

While New Hampshire continues to lead in education redesign, too many possible benefits of the concept have yet to be realized. Although, in my opinion, 80 percent of the necessary changes to state regulations have been made, we are probably at only 20 percent of implementation. We can make public education better and more cost-effective than ever before if we work hard to at implementation.

An unknown source once said, "On the road to change, tradition will place 1,000 soldiers at every crossroad to protect the past."

Although our old time-based system of public education will not easily give up its grip, it is destined to lose to a more effective system — one that was born when Craig Benson gave the charge to "Start with a clean sheet of paper. Challenge everything."

Fred Bramante is the past chairman and a current member of the New Hampshire State Board of Education.

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Order your margarita in its native language. Look like a million bucks no matter the situation. Keep your car purring like a kitten. Now's a great time to pick up some new skills to make you happier, wealthier and full of tasty creme brulee. Jeff Mucciarone tells you where to learn something new.



Also on the cover:

Feeling snarky? Comedian **Lisa Lampanelli** talks with Michael Witthaus ahead of her show, on Page 60.

And for **fun with the kids**, see the Playground column on page 32 and the Kiddie Pool on Page 33, plus our story about Manchester's new flag football league for youngsters on Page 30.

HippoStaff

EDITORIAL

Executive Editor

Amy Diaz, adiaz@hippopress.com, ext. 29

Contributing Editor

Lisa Parsons, lparsons@hippopress.com

Listings

Arts listings: arts@hippopress.com

Inside/Outside listings: Kelly Sennott,

listings@hippopress.com

Food & drink listings: Angel Roy at food@hippopress.com

Music listings: Angel Roy at music@hippopress.com

Book Editor

Lisa Parsons (send books for possible review via mail attention Lisa — books will not be returned)

Staff Writers

Angel Roy, aroy@hippopress.com, ext. 30

Jeff Mucciarone, jmucciarone@hippopress.com, ext. 36

Kelly Sennott, ksennott@hippopress.com, ext. 10

Copy editor

Deidre Ashe

Contributors

John Andrews, Sid Ceaser, Doran Dal Pra, Allison Willson Dudas, Jennifer Graham, Henry Homeyer, Dave Long, Lauren Mifsud, Stefanie Phillips, Eric W. Saeger, Sarah Shemkus, Rebecca Sherman, Gil Talbot, Michael Witthaus.

To reach the newsroom call 625-1855, ext. 29.

BUSINESS

Publisher

Jody Reese, Ext. 21

Associate Publisher

Dan Szczesny, Ext. 13

Associate Publisher

Jeff Rapsis, Ext. 23

Production Manager

Glenn Given, production@hippopress.com

Production

David Coscia, Ashley McCarty

Circulation Manager

Doug Ladd, Ext. 35

Advertising Manager

Charlene Cesarini, Ext. 26

Account Executives

Doreen Astbury, Ext. 11

Alyse Savage, 603-493-2026

Katharine Stickney, Ext. 44

Roxanne Macaig, Ext. 27

Kristin Crawford, support staff, Ext. 25

Reception & Bookkeeping

Gloria Zogopoulos

National Account Representative

Voice Media Group

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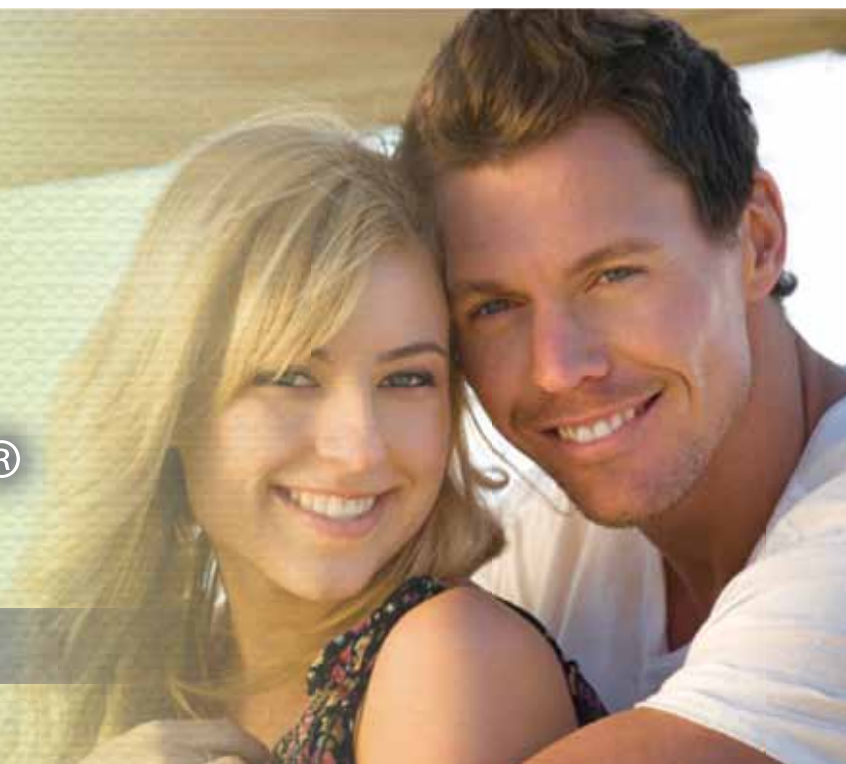
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NEWS & NOTES

News in Brief

• **Copadis named interim head of Employment Security:** In the wake of Tara Reardon's resignation as commissioner of Employment Security, Gov. John Lynch nominated George Copadis to be the Interim Commissioner of Employment Security. The Executive Council signed off on the nomination earlier this week. Copadis will take a leave of absence from the Department of Labor to serve in the interim post. Copadis has been commissioner of Labor since 2004 and before that he was the president of the Workforce Opportunity Council. Reardon resigned last week under fire for allegedly instructing a subordinate to fire her daughter so that her daughter could collect unemployment. Reardon, who is married to Concord Mayor Jim Bouley, denied the allegations and blamed disgruntled co-workers, according to reports. "George is a strong manager of people, possesses a thorough knowledge of workforce and employment issues and is widely respected in state government," Lynch said in a statement. "He has the experience, knowledge and temperament to provide strong leadership for the Department of Employment Security at this time." Lynch and the Executive Council had reportedly been meeting privately about the Reardon situation for months. By law, the Deputy Labor Commissioner, David Wihby, would assume the responsibilities of Labor commissioner during Copadis' absence. In addition to Reardon, Department of Employment Security Deputy Commissioner Darrell Gates has been suspended with pay pending an investigation into allegations of misconduct. Reports indicate that Gates also instructed a subordinate to lay off his own daughter so that she could collect unemployment. "The Council and I believe these allegations of misconduct are serious and that suspension is the appropriate action to take pending further investigation," Lynch said.

• **New HQ for St. Mary's:** St. Mary's Bank held a groundbreaking ceremony last week to begin construction on its new corporate headquarters at 200 McGregor St. in Manchester. The new building, which will be right in front of the current headquarters, will be LEED certified and is slated for completion in fall 2013. The current headquarters will remain open during construction and will be taken down once the three-story, 29,000-square-foot new building is complete to make way for the new drive-up to be constructed, according to a company press release. The new facility will feature a state-of-the-art branch office, mortgage and commercial lending divisions, human resources and executive administration offices, along with a four-lane drive-up and an additional drive-up ATM. St. Mary's President and CEO Ronald Covey said there was never a question the bank would remain where it is. The original office was established nearly 104 years ago, the release said. The new building will include energy-efficient insulation, eco-friendly carpets, a high-efficiency HVAC system, solar photovoltaic array, and LED

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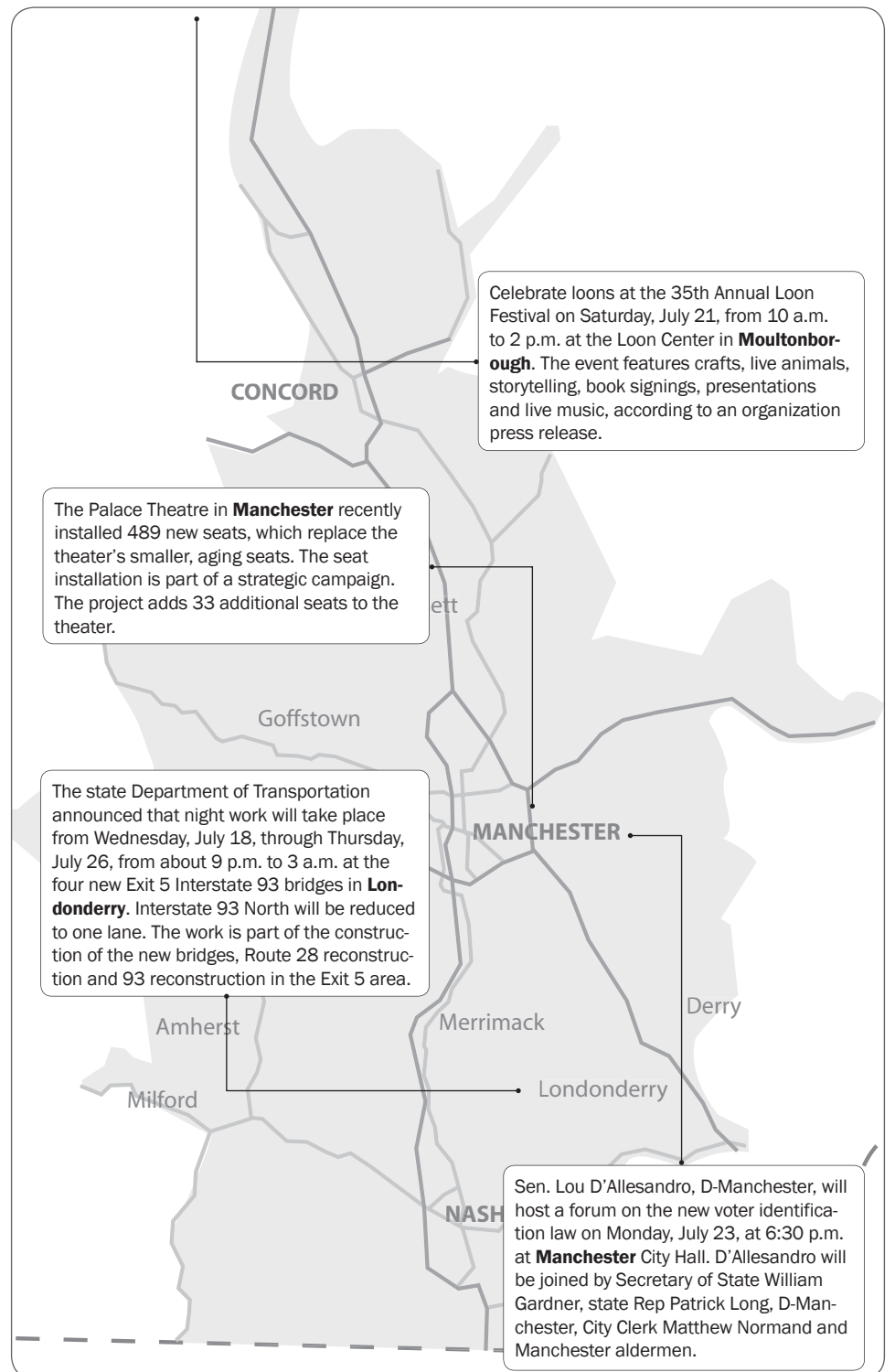
• **FIT acquires Manchester Emergency Housing:** Families in Transition, a homeless services provider in Manchester and Concord, announced recently that it had acquired the nonprofit Manchester Emergency Housing, which provides staffing and resources to Manchester's only family shelter. According to press materials, the plan is to perform some renovations later this month with the help of area businesses. Families in Transition takes over the organization from the city. "The acquisition will streamline services for homeless families by providing them with access to a greater array of services that will ultimately help them end their homelessness by moving on to stable housing as rapidly as possible," said Maureen Beauregard, president of Families in Transition. Visit www.fitnh.org.

• **Science Guy in NH:** President Barack Obama got a little help from Bill Nye the Science Guy earlier this week, as Bill Nye and New Jersey Congressman Rob Andrews discussed the president's commitment to education, as well as his emphasis on science education, during their visit to the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center in Concord. The event was part of the New Hampshire Obama campaign's "Out-Educate" initiative. The campaign is packed with two weeks of talking with voters about the president's approach to education.

• **Two state senators endorse Lamontagne:** Gubernatorial candidate Ovide Lamontagne picked up the endorsements of Sens. Bob Odell and Jim Forsythe. "I support Ovide because of his ability to reach out and connect to a wide range of New Hampshire voters," Odell said. "Voters of all political stripes are concerned about our state's future and they want to elect a leader who understands those concerns and can work with anyone — Republican, Independent, or Democrat — towards a better New Hampshire. Ovide will bring us back to being a state where we can respect each others viewpoints and will pull us together to achieve common goals." Lamontagne so far has the endorsements of seven of the state's 24 senators. Lamontagne is running against Kevin Smith in the GOP primary.

• **Former AG endorses Cilley:** Former New Hampshire Attorney General Phil McLaughlin announced earlier this week that he endorsed Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jackie Cilley. McLaughlin considered running for governor himself this year as well. "There is nothing fancy about Jackie Cilley. She's a work horse, she's smart, and she's rooted in this state," McLaughlin said. "She pledges nothing but straight talk, an open mind and a willingness to confront New Hampshire's future. Those are the qualities most needed in our next governor and the reasons that I support her." McLaughlin served as attorney general from 1997 to 2002. Cilley is running against Maggie Hassan in the Democratic primary.

• **Justice, police departments get grants:** New Hampshire law enforcement depart-



ments recently received three federal grants to support crime prevention programs and police operations. The state Department of Justice received \$1.08 million to support drug interdiction efforts, investigate cyber-related abuses and complete the statewide criminal justice information system, known as J-ONE. "These funds support a single statewide multi-jurisdictional drug task force designed to help local law enforcement address the types of drug crimes that severely impact the quality of life within the state of New Hampshire," said Attorney General Michael Delaney. "As illegal drug use is often tied to crimes ranging from property crime to assault to homicide, it is imperative that New Hampshire continues to support efforts to reduce the flow of illegal drugs within the state." The police departments of Manchester, Nashua and Hillsborough County received a joint \$211,014 grant to purchase radar detection equipment and provide officers with emergency first aid products and training. The Concord Police Department and the Mer-

rimack County Sheriff received \$27,000 to purchase tasers, patrol bicycles and forensic equipment.

• **Simons in line to head GOP committee:** Jon Simons, a New Hampshire native, is next up for the post of executive director at the New Hampshire State Republican Committee. Current executive director Tory Mazzola, who was hired last fall, accepted a new position that will be announced soon, according to a GOP press release. Simons has a background in grassroots organizing, managing field staff and fundraising. "Jon brings to our leadership team a well-rounded local and national political, policy and management background that will allow us to continue to build upon our recent successes and keep us on a path to victory in November," said state GOP Chairman Wayne MacDonald in a statement. Simons worked for DDC Advocacy in Washington, D.C. as an associate campaign director and as manager of government affairs for the American Hotel and Lodging Association.

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Milfoil in Naticook Lake

Divers to be sent to remove invasive species

By Jeff Mucciarone
jmucciarone@hippopress.com

Overall, the news with regard to the invasive species of milfoil is good, as few new serious infestations have been discovered in recent years. But the more immediate news is bad, since officials recently verified the presence of variable milfoil at Naticook Lake in Merrimack, as well as in Otter Lake in Greenfield.

Things had been going well on the milfoil front in the last couple years.

"That's why this year was so alarming," said Amy Smagula, who coordinates the state's exotic species program for the state Department of Environmental Services.

Smagula received an e-mail from a Merrimack resident two weeks ago who indicated a plant had gotten a little more abundant than other plants in Naticook Lake. The individual sent Smagula a photo of the plant, and she immediately thought it looked like invasive milfoil. She made her way to the lake last week and verified it was variable milfoil. Smagula surveyed the lake and used GPS to map the location of the milfoil.

The good news was the milfoil was not widespread yet. It was localized to the boat launch area. Smagula estimated the outbreak was at least two years old.

The state will send diving teams into the water to pull up plants. If it can't be managed by hand, officials will have to use an herbicide.

New Hampshire now has 78 infested water bodies, most containing variable milfoil as the primary invasive plant, while others have fanwort, Eurasian water milfoil, water chestnut and Didymo (also known as rock snot, an invasive algae), among other common species. This includes 67 lakes and ponds and 11 river systems. The early ice-out this year, along with warmer than average temperatures, contributed to pronounced and rapid growth of exotic species, according to a DES press release.

In recent years, officials have discovered one or no new infestations each year. The infestations that they had been finding were typically small patches or clumps not covering large areas. Biologists have gotten the message out that people should check out their water bodies regularly and should report potential suspicious growth. Early detection is the name of the game.

"The aim is for prevention if we can, but if it does happen ... we push for early detection," Smagula said. "Outcomes are much better for lakes that are found earlier."

Milfoil shifts the balance of chemistry in a habitat. A pond doesn't function as it once did. Fisheries can be stunted. Oxygen levels decrease. Water temperatures in the shallow areas rise. Milfoil grows so thick, sunlight can't penetrate the surface.

"There are a lot of environmental and ecological issues," Smagula said.

Milfoil looks like a greenish squirrel's tail. It is the most widespread invasive species in the state. It grows from the floor of a lake or river, as much as 10 to 15 feet tall. When it reaches the surface, it creates sort of an interwoven canopy that mats and



(top) Milfoil looks somewhat like a greenish squirrel tail. (above) A boat maneuvering through a patch of milfoil. Courtesy photos.

covers the surface. Milfoil, which was first documented in New Hampshire in 1965, has feather-like leaves. Some call it feathered boas. Smagula said previously that it sort of looks like little Christmas trees.

"Boating is the primary means of spread in the state," Smagula said. "We always find new infestations at the boat launch. That's the point of entry and then it spreads throughout a water body."

So boating is the problem. But fixing that isn't difficult. Smagula goes by the mantra of "If it's green, it's mean." Remove anything from your boat, trailer or fishing gear that is green, regardless of whether you know what kind of plant it is. Dispose of it away from the lake. Officials have found that waterfowl do not spread milfoil. People don't need to power wash their boats and trailers or sterilize them after each use. But people do need to take a few minutes to examine their boat and their trailer.

"It is simple," Smagula said. "It just takes a minute to do. You need to look under the trailer, the propeller, the wheel wells, anything it could get hung up on, the anchor."

How quickly milfoil spreads depends on a number of factors, including wind direction and current. Usually, there are a few patches near the point of entry. In the following year, pods spread throughout the lake starting new clusters here and there. Those clusters expand and, within five to six years, milfoil can create a ring around an entire water body.

"It doesn't take very long," Smagula said.

The problem with invasive species like milfoil is that nothing holds them back. Nothing eats the milfoil and so it grows unchecked in a water body, forcing out native vegetation. Existing patches send out runners. If officials don't intervene, it forms a monoculture, which causes declines in native plants and vegetation, Smagula said.

"With the rate it grows, I'm not sure anything could keep up with it," Smagula said.

In a lake like Naticook, milfoil can pretty much grow everywhere up to a 10-foot depth. There are several homes on the lake and two children's camps. There

are definitely areas that could be impacted, Smagula said. In extreme infestations in other parts of the country, people have actually drowned when they've been caught in invasive plant beds. In that way, it could be a public safety issue, Smagula said.

Divers can pull weeds or cover them with screens that block sunlight, essentially starving the plant. More extensive infestations require chemical responses. The herbicides work but not necessarily as well. They can impact some similar plants, but native plants would be unaffected. The concentrations would be such that the herbicide wouldn't impact fish and insects. And the herbicide wouldn't harm humans either, Smagula said.

This is a statewide issue. So far, the farthest north milfoil has been spotted in New Hampshire is Freedom, but milfoil has been spotted in places farther north in Ver-

mont and Maine.

"It could show up anywhere at any time," Smagula said.

The state does have a volunteer weed-watcher program that trains people to monitor water bodies so that officials can respond quickly if anything turns up suspicious.

If you see a suspicious plant, take a photo and sent it to Smagula in an e-mail at amy.smagula@des.nh.gov or call 271-2248. It's better to be overly cautious than to let something grow out of control, Smagula said. Look for plants that appear to be dominating an area of a lake or river bed, that are brighter green in color, and that appear to be spreading quickly. Maps of existing infestations, as well as information, photographs and descriptions on exotic and prohibited plants in New Hampshire, can be found on the Exotic Species Program Page at www.des.nh.gov.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Hippo's July 12 cover story was "101 Ideas for Family Fun," which detailed a variety of events, activities and places to go in southern New Hampshire. This letter is in response to that article.

I read with interest your feature article, "101 Ideas for Family Fun," but was disappointed to find the Aviation Museum at Manchester-Boston Regional Airport not listed. As a board member of the Avia-

tion Historical Society, which sponsors the museum, I'd be remiss if I didn't bring this to your attention. Details on hours of operation, etc. can be found at www.nhahs.org. Thanks again for all you do to enlighten our community.

Patrick Duffy
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BEST WEEK

NASHUA SILVER KNIGHTS
This year the Silver Knights have picked up right where they left off last year. The team, which has many local stars and is part of the summertime Futures Collegiate Baseball League, took home the championship last year in its inaugural season. It won 13 games in a row between June 26 and July 13. The team is drawing more fans this year, according to an article in the Telegraph. The Silver Knights play at historic Holman Stadium. As of press time, the team's record was 25-7. The next home game is Saturday, July 21, against the Old Orchard Beach Raging Tide. The regular season runs through Aug. 9.

WORST WEEK

TARA REARDON AND GOV. JOHN LYNCH
Tara Reardon, the former commissioner of Employment Security, had to resign last week amid allegations she had her daughter hired for a part-time job with the state, and then ordered a subordinate to lay her off so she could collect unemployment benefits. Reardon is saying that "disgruntled employees" conspired against her. Also, the deputy commissioner of Employment Security, Darrell Gates, is currently suspended allegedly for doing the same thing — having his daughter hired, and then laid off so she could collect unemployment. Reardon was in the third year of a five-year term. Her annual salary was \$99,000. Lynch is on the tail end of a record-length tenure as governor and controversy isn't one of the things he wants on his plate.

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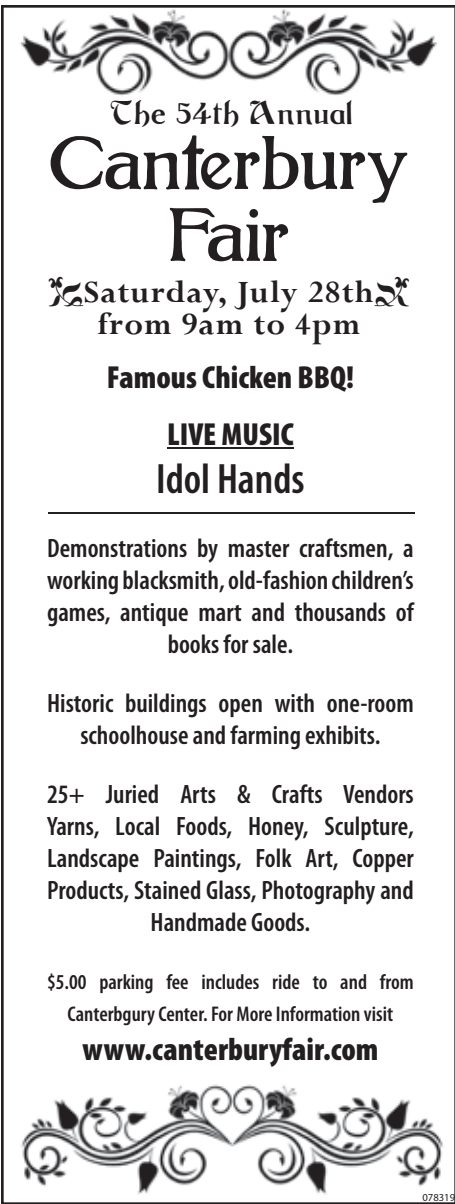


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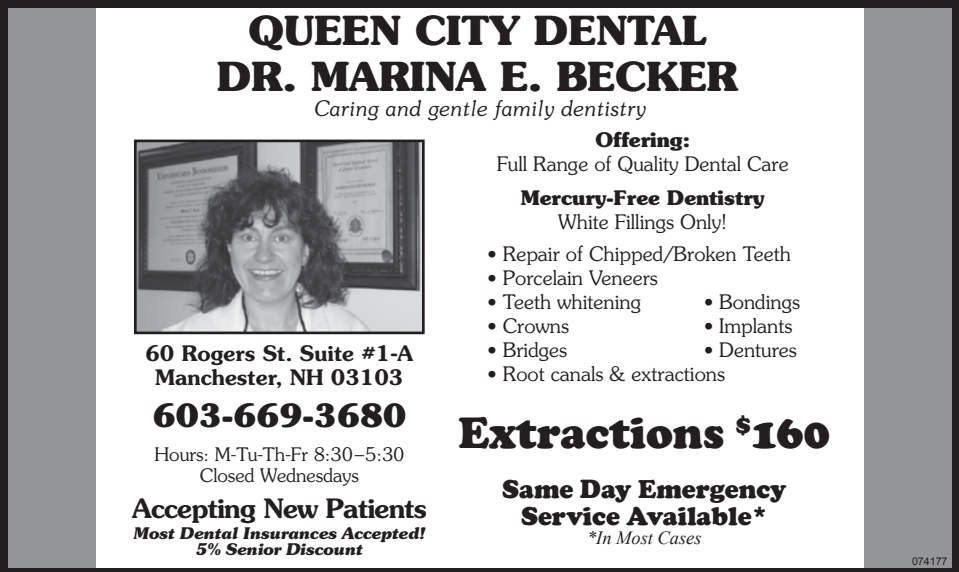
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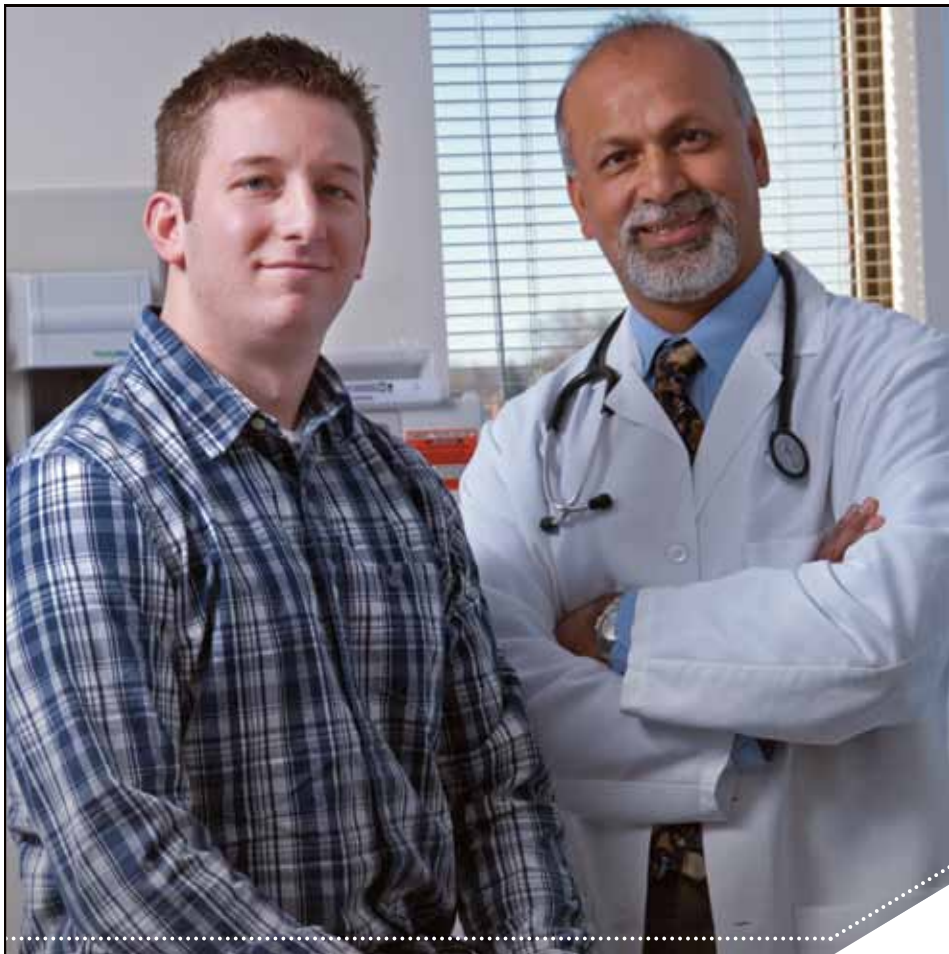
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This just in

News anchor Jennifer Vaughn writes novels

You know her as the 6 p.m. news anchor on WMUR-TV, where she's been for 12 years. But Jennifer Vaughn is also a novelist. Her debut novel, *Last Flight Out*, about a fictional vice president's daughter, was released a little more than a year ago and is available at a number of New Hampshire bookstores and Amazon.com. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to organizations fighting breast cancer in New Hampshire. Visit www.jvwrites.com.

Q: *How did the book come together?*
I've been reading forever. I've been reading books as long as I can remember, big thick books.

Whatever I could find on my mother's nightstand, and I would just devour them. I always knew I wanted to [write a book], but I needed a bit more life and world experience before I jumped in. ... Covering ... presidential politics in New Hampshire, I started to watch the entourages and family members, and I eventually started to put a story together in my head. ...

So your coverage of politics...that's where the idea for the book came from?

From covering politics but also from watching ... the people who are dedicated solely to that one person.... Ella is the daughter of the first female vice president and she's very much a young woman who wanted nothing to do with that life. She feels the pressure of ... what her family might expect from her.

When did you begin writing in earnest?

I started writing about three summers ago. ... Being in the news business, writing on deadline makes you get stuff done. I sort of whipped through the initial manuscript. That took about six months, and then the editing took another six months. Writing the story, that was fairly quick for me. I think the years and years of being in the newsroom, with all the distractions and making sure you're doing whatever it is you're tasked to do ... that mindset kept me on task. I dedicated time each day to get in and write.

How did you make time to work it in?

I'd put the kids on the bus each morning and then I had a block between going to the gym and making dinner and going to work when I could just sit in the kitchen and write. ... I don't hide away. I'm in the kitchen. That's my comfort zone. Having life's distractions going on It seems to be what works for me. It must be all those years of living in a newsroom.

Readers — what are you hoping they take away from the book?

People have asked about a sequel. There is no sequel in the works as of yet. I just wanted people to be able to get away. In the news business, I've seen so much tragedy and sadness...and when I read I look for an escape. ... I hope people who read my book can shut out the real world for a little bit ... and live in the pages of a fake world for a while.

Was writing an escape for you?

Many times. Any particular scene, in any moment, I felt like the characters, I was watching them in my mind. ... It's not about what I'm thinking... I'm bearing witness to what the characters are doing and saying.



The charitable component — how did you decide to do that?

Given that I have a day job and a paycheck, I wanted it to be more than just a book. I wanted it to be something that gave back. It's something that is close to my heart. When I was 6, one ... of my aunts died at 42 of breast cancer. It was in my life early and it feels like it never left. Working in the news business and doing some medical stories, I get the chance to meet doctors and sadly too many women and too many that we've lost. It's always around me. ... It's just to give back, to kind of let the disease know I am watching it.

Why should people pick up this book?

I respect readers' time and I wanted to give them something that would let them escape from their real life. I write in a way that I hope readers can enjoy. I'm a new author, so I hope curiosity is reason alone to give me a shot.

Is there a message that the book gets across?

It has a lot to do with family dynamics, sure. ... It's all about getting a chance to make things right. It's about the realization that maybe you messed up a little bit and [you] need to fix things. It's about having that opportunity to do the right thing before it's too late. To make sure you're there for people who need you, so they can fall on you if somebody needs you in that moment.

What is Echo Valley [the novel Vaughn is currently writing] all about and how did you come up with the idea for that?

Echo Valley is the story of a single mother hairdresser who unwittingly stumbles into a scathing scandal involving a very-married presidential candidate and a female staffer during a family photo shoot at a New Hampshire apple orchard. When a senior staffer tries to set her up to shut her up, Bo Carmichael has to scramble to keep herself and her little boy out of harm's way. This book idea was sparked by a conversation with my own hairdresser ... as we chatted about the New Hampshire primary experience. Of course, *Echo Valley* is complete and total fiction, but the spectacle of presidential politics can lead an active imagination down so many roads. This book was a joy to write because of the familiarity of the setting and the feeling that Bo was so close. Readers are really going to like her — she's smart and strong despite tough life circumstances.

—Jeff Mucciarone

JULY 19, 2012

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

NH dropping in business...

New Hampshire fell from No. 17 last year to No. 19 in CNBC's "America's Top States for Business 2012" report. The annual report examines states in a number of categories, including cost of doing business, access to capital and infrastructure and transportation. New Hampshire ranked 44th for workforce, 46th for infrastructure and transportation and 40th for cost of living.

OOl score: -1

Comment: And yet, we were ranked No. 2 for business-friendliness. See the report at www.cnbc.com/id/46413846.

...but hey, look at this

In the same report, New Hampshire was ranked, wait for it, No. 1 for its overall quality of life, up from No. 2 last year.

OOl score: +1

Comment: *BOO-YAH!*

...and this

New Hampshire scored 100 out of 100 possible points in a Strategic National Stockpile review of preparedness for major emergency. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention perform the assessment each year. It looks at exercises, drills and planning, according to a state press release. Visit www.cdc.gov/phpr/stockpile/stockpile.htm

OOI score: +1

Comment: *This is the first time the state has received a perfect score.*

Heaven knows we're miserable now

For a certain subset of music lovers, this weekend will be bittersweet. This weekend appears to be the final weekend for alternative/indie/modern rock on WFNX (92.1 FM here in New Hampshire) — you know, the likes of The Black Keys, The Pixies, Beastie Boys, Foster the People, The White Stripes and, yes, those mooney kids from The Smiths. (Saturday, July 21, will be the last full day with DJs accompanying music, according to media reports; see wfnx.com for more.) As you may have heard back in May, FNX was sold to Clear Channel. Since news of the station's sale broke, the station's broadcast has been, as the statement from the station suggested it would be, something of a wake, with lots of music (played in an increasingly eclectic mix) and the reappearance of personalities past and recent past. QOL always thought music lovers in the sweet spot of southern New Hampshire were blessed — able to get both local commercial music stations and Boston stations, with music for many tastes. For QOL's tastes, FNX was a satisfying dish, a nice blend of nostalgia (QOL is still trying to wrap QOL's head around Nirvana as a candidate for "rewind" playlists) and, right up until the end, new stuff. QOL has spent a lot of hours over the years singing aloud in the car to FNX. There are other good stations in the area and, yes, we all have iPod-type things now, but that specific blend of music and personalities will be dearly missed.

QOL score: -5 (though, for the good times, QOL would give FNX +oodles)

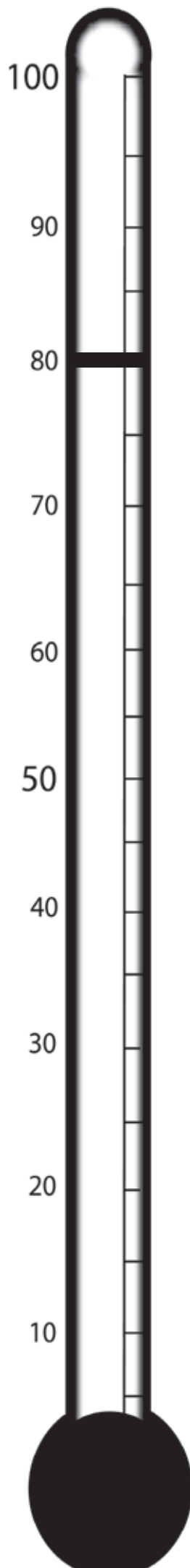
Comments: According to wfix.com, FNX will continue as an online radio station even after it stops broadcasting as a terrestrial one. And something called [Radio Boston.com](http://RadioBoston.com) seems to have scooped up many of the station's personalities (Adam 12, Julie Kramer, Henry Santoro and Paul Driscoll). Rock on.

QOL score: 84

Net change: -4

QOL this week: 80

What's affecting your Quality of Life here in New Hampshire? Let us know at news@hippopress.com.



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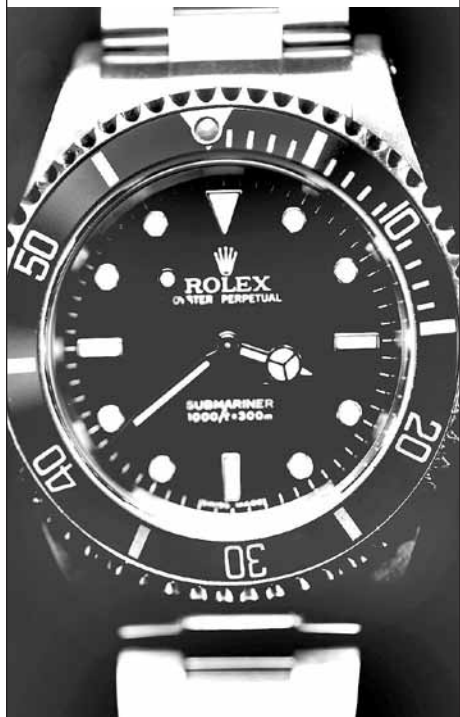
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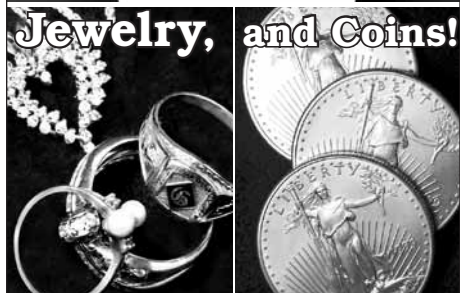
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DAVE LONG'S HIPPO SPORTS

LONGSHOTS

Paterno comes out no better in Round III in the Penn State cover-up saga



What does it say about the Penn State culture that it has had its second-best fundraising year ever in the same year it's been thoroughly disgraced

in the wake of the **Jerry Sandusky** child abuse scandal? More specifically, in a year when the coach it raised to an exalted saint-like status and three other of its highest-ranking officials were disgraced for looking the other way on Sandusky's sordid activities for more than a decade for the sake of the football program's image.

If you don't know by now, college football's all-time winningest coach **Joe Paterno**, PSU athletic director **Tim Curley**, ex-vice president **Gary Schultz** and ex-president **Graham Spanier** last week were held directly accountable in the independent eight-month investigation conducted by former FBI director **Louis Freeh**. Three of the most damning statements from the report were: "The evidence clearly shows, in our view, an active agreement to conceal," "total disregard for the victims of child molester Jerry Sandusky" and "repeatedly concealed critical facts to avoid bad publicity."

And yet the reaction from some of the key people involved continues to be, well, incredible. Like the board of trustees refusing to take down the statue of the enabler Paterno that stands outside Beaver Stadium despite his staying quiet about Sandusky for up to 13 years. Like his family now calling for an independent panel of "experts" to review Freeh's findings, as if he had an ax to grind in a report that destroyed the reputation of their patriarch. Like people who still are clinging to the notion that one bad act can't wipe away "all the good he did."

As I said in November after this story broke, sorry to say, yes it can. Especially when it involves a sanctimonious coach who repeatedly preached about "success with honor" and was more than willing to say college football "could do without the **Barry Switzers** of the world" and then showed himself to be something quite different and far worse.

All of which raises the question: If a man with seemingly unlimited power in not-so-happy valley was willing to look the other way as children were being assaulted by his former top

assistant for the sake of image and his legacy, what else was he capable of doing? Was the supposedly clean program as clean as purported? Were any run-ins with the law by players kept under wraps thanks to his influence? Were notes he wrote that Sandusky was not going to be his eventual replacement because his involvement in the Second Mile charity would not let him focus on the job just misdirection to conceal another reason, like they knew what he was up to and were moving him out because of it?

I don't know if any of that was true, but I do know that the folks behind other scandals — Watergate, for instance — were not above changing documents to avoid detection. Once you're in, most people feel there is no turning back and continue to cover it up, which always make it worse.

Alumni groups are calling for the entire board of trustees to resign for their utter lack of overall institutional control — which they have refused to do. So the question is what happens next. Particularly with the football program, as people across the country are calling for the NCAA to give PSU the death penalty on lack of institutional control grounds. It's pretty hard to argue with that after seeing the NCAA drop the hammer in handing out bowl suspensions for something as inconsequential as kids exchanging memorabilia for free tattoos. Because these are real crimes and those are just, well, shenanigans.

Many won't agree with a death penalty sentence for PSU on the basis that far too many people who had nothing to do with the actions of five men would be penalized by this course of action, and that's true. But, while that is unfair, bad things happen to innocent people all the time and they have to deal with it — as Sandusky's victims are now doing after the Penn State four did nothing to help them when they had the chance.

With pep rallies, marching bands, tailgating, weekend partying and "We Are Penn State" chants from the faithful in the stands, football on college campuses is a festival, a joyful carnival celebrating the university up to eight times each fall. And given the somber reality hanging over Not-so-happy Valley now, how anyone can be looking forward to participating in that football-inspired carnival atmosphere there THIS fall? Especially when the cover-up that made

the carnage so much worse was behind it all, or at least enabled Sandusky to continue on his way instead of putting him behind bars 10 years earlier. Yet it looks like that is going happen.

That's not all that surprising, given the way the board of trustees was depicted in the Freeh report as unprepared, incompetent and operating in deference to Paterno, all of which played a role in a scandal that has done astonishing harm to Penn State's reputation. After all these months, what's most clear to me is by their continuing lack of action the trustees still haven't come to grips with what has happened. They know they've got a full-blown scandal on their hands that stretches from coast to coast and will stain Penn State for — take your pick, (a) a decade, (b) a generation, (c) ever. But the inaction says they don't understand they have a responsibility to their students, alums and most importantly the victims to show that they know their football culture at PSU was out of control in an unimaginable way and that there must be serious consequences for those actions.

So instead of just waiting for a punishment to be handed down by the NCAA, a statement must be made to *all* by the trustees *now*. They must be the ones to set the course for redemption — with the first step being to shut football down for the year ahead no matter what the financial consequences are, because this all goes far beyond just the actions of its football program. The astonishing fundraising numbers and continuing "one bad act can't wipe away all the good Joe did" clamor suggests the culture of the entire region has been infected by it all. Thus Penn State's Football Nation needs a time out, like a father saying to his son after he's done something wrong, you go up to your room, young man, and think about what you did.

A silent fall — to grieve for the victims, contemplate what's happened and most importantly to put it all into perspective, to understand how the leader they've mistakenly worshiped all these years could put his image and legacy ahead of the lives of eight innocent little boys who desperately needed his help.

Dave Long can be e-mailed at dlong@hippo-press.com. He hosts Saturday Morning Sports with Dave Long from 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays on WGAM — The Game 1250-AM in Manchester and 900-AM in Nashua.

Red Sox Nation Hoping Ellsbury Can Shoulder The Load On Return

By JJ Truman

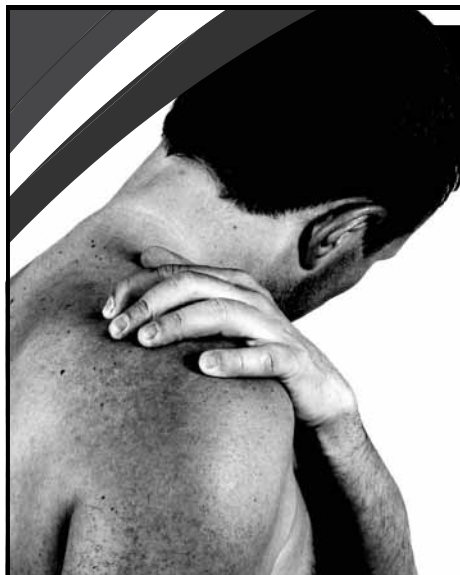
By the time you see this Jacoby Ellsbury could finally be back in the Red Sox line-up after a three month absence that began on Friday the 13th in April. It happened when Tampa Bay's Reid Brignach landed on his right shoulder after a takeout slide at second base. It caused a dislocation in the ball and socket joint that holds the shoulder together and is called shoulder subluxation. Often the dislocation is temporary as the ball goes partly out and then back into the socket. But it stretches the shoulder ligaments and causes an instability or looseness in the joint and can become a chronic condition if not addressed properly. In some cases surgery is required and others the best course of action is rest and to strengthen the shoulder — which was the course taken with Ellsbury.



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Sports Glossary

Barry Switzer: Oklahoma coach from the '70s and '80s with the loosey-goosey style that let the boys be boys as long as they performed on the field. And since he was 157-29-4 in his time at OU, they did — even though run-ins with the law were frequent enough, with the best being back-up Charles Thompson's being arrested on cocaine trafficking charges as he left a school where he just had delivered an anti-drug speech. Played college football at Arkansas just before Cowboys owner Jerry Jones did — who he later coached for. Won a Super Bowl in Dallas, though his most memorable headline came in the New York Post: "Bozo the Coach," after he went for it and failed on fourth and 1 deep inside Giants territory.

Stuart Scott: A love-him-or-hate-him, ultra-annoying ESPN anchor with more street-talking lingo than an episode of *The Wire*. Best day was seeing him bounced as anchor to the ABC roundtable on its NBA telecasts. It dropped the hip factor of the show by 10 notches, making its watchability rise by 98 notches, and dropped the annoyingness factor by a factor of 100. Other than that, I love the guy.

John McGraw: Fiery, iron-jawed manager from the early days of baseball. A patron of the small style of the day who invented the Baltimore chop, where you swung down on the ball to bounce it high off the ground in an effort to beat out the infield hit. Needless to say he hated the Babe both for his prodigious slugging and for stealing the city of New York out from underneath him and his New York Giants. In all, he managed 4,769 games and won 2,763 in leading the Giants to 10 pennants and three world titles.

Cy Young: Arguably the most astonishing person ever to play major-league baseball. At the top of the list is the 511 wins, which is the most in baseball history and a full 94 more than the 417 by Walter Johnson. That is the sports record that is most unbreakable of them all. Next could be the 315 losses — which is the most losses in baseball history as well. Although his 7,356 innings pitched won't get touched either, as the nearest anyone has gotten to that in the last 100 years was Phil Niekro with 5,404, and he was a knuckleballer who pitched until he was about 87.

Birdie barrage keys Leavitt's NH State Am golf win

The Big Story: It was what they call in basketball a blow-out win for **Joe Leavitt** at the New Hampshire State Am Golf Championship last Saturday. The new champ, who plays out of Atkinson Resort & Country Club, defeated **DJ Lantz** handily over the 36-hole final at Concord CC. It wasn't that Lantz played badly; he was just buried under a barrage of eight birdies on his way to an 8 and 7 victory. Of particular benefit to Leavitt was his play on the 300-yard par 4 fourth hole, 424-yard eighth and 164-yard par 3 ninth, which he birdied both times around Concord in picking up 6 of those 8 birdies that led to his win.

Sports 101: Who was the MVP of the 1970 All-Star game won on the famous collision between **Pete Rose** of the NL and AL catcher **Ray Fosse**?

Hot Ticket: For golfers it's the return of the Northeast Delta Dental International. It's the ninth annual appearance of the LPGA Symetra in New Hampshire, which will be played at Beaver Meadow Golf Club in Concord from Friday, July 20, through the final round on Sunday, July 22.

Epic Match of the Week: It was the 25-hole marathon between **Steve Lane** and nine-time champ **Bob Mielcarz** won by Lane seven holes into sudden death in the round of 16 at the State Am.

Line of the Week: **Kurt Minaheim**, when asked on Comcast Sports Night what he would choose if he could wipe out one sports moment in his life, suggested the day transparent stylin' ESPN anchor "**Stuart Scott** was born." I'm for that.

All-Lyrics Name Team: The by far most lyrical name at last week's NBA Summer League in Orlando was that of the Celtics rookie out of Temple who, with five assists, keeps on giving: **Dionte (I'm dreaming of a white) Christmas**.

What a Stupid I Yam Award: To me because I erroneously called Stratham's Golf Club of New England the Country Club of NE. My bad.

On This Date – July 19: 1902 NY Giants lose their first game under new manager John McGraw. 1910 Cy Young registers his 500th career victory. 1914 Boston Braves begin drive from last place to become the World Series-winning "miracle Braves." 1927 Ty Cobb gets his 4,000th hit. 1936 Bob Feller makes his major league debut. 1973 Willie Mays named to the NL All Star team for the 24th time to tie Stan Musial's all-time record. 1978 Yanks (gulp) start their comeback from 14 games to force AL Playoff with the Red Sox. 1990 Pete Rose is sentenced to 5 months for tax evasion. 1991 Cal Ripken plays in his 1,500th consecutive game. **Born:** 1922 Rachel Robinson, social activist and wife of Jackie Robinson. 1965 unctuous ESPN anchor Stuart Scott. 1979 Steve Blass disease sufferer and pitcher turned outfielder Rick Ankiel. **Died:** 2010 NBA center Lorenzen Wright (b. 1975).

Sports 101 Answer: Despite being on the short end of the National League's 5-4 win in 12 innings, Carl Yastrzemski was the game's MVP after an All-Star record 4 hits in 6 at-bats and knocking in a run while playing both first base and center field in the game.

The Numbers

15 – the discouraging plus/minus total of Celtics rookie first-round pick **Fab Melo** over the first three games in the NBA's Orlando Summer League when he had 4 points, 11 rebounds and 3 blocks in 40 minutes on the floor. Until a 5-point 10-rebound final game.

4 – hits in four at-bats for first baseman **Mike McDade** in leading the East to a 5-4 win over the West at the

Eastern League All-Star in Reading, Pa., last week.

5 – runs batted in by **Matt Butkus** in leading Manchester's Tom Woodlock All-Stars to a 4-1 win over Nashua in the state Babe Ruth tournament when **Dario Vitagliano** picked up the win.

15 – runs scored by Sweeney Post in a 15-4 mercy-rule win over Hudson in American Legion Baseball action when **Tyler Burke** knocked in four runs with a pair of hits and

Zach Beckwith had two RBI.

17 – strikeouts for fireballing **Tom Hudon** in Bedford Post 54's 7-4 win over Merrimack's Post 98 in District A American Legion play.

139 – low two-day score in the qualifying round at the NH State AM to give the aforementioned Mielcraz medalist honors in his final State AM played on his home course of Concord Country Club.

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6 Skills for a smarter, better-looking you

By Jeff Mucciarone
jmucciarone@hippopress.com

You know you need to pay that bill, but what stack was it under? You know you ought to be saving for retirement, but you keep putting it off.

You've got a pile of food magazines in the living room but the recipes are too complex and there are too many to choose from.

Your car's oil change indicator lit up 1,500 miles ago; does that mean your engine is on the verge of failing? You've got a job interview next week — that's the good news — but what to wear? And might it help if

you knew a little Spanish? For that matter, once you've got the job, you'd like to know Spanish for when you take that two-week vacation in Barcelona.

Stop waiting to make your life better and start doing it now. Here's a collection of tips and how-tos — and lists of local resources for further advice and practice — for some things you need to do, some things you may want to do, others you've been meaning to do, and still others you hadn't thought of yet. Good luck.

How to: Learn to *hablar* like a local.

Maybe your job involves interaction with Spanish-speakers. Maybe you're dreaming of a vacation in Acapulco or Barcelona. Maybe you just want to stretch your mind by learning another language, or you want to understand Sofia Vergara when she's on a roll. Whatever the reason, the important thing is to have a context for learning a language, says Mark Phelps, a language teacher at Manchester Community College.

Whatever your reason, don't try to learn a new language in a vacuum.

"Why are you doing this and what are you going to do with this?" Phelps said. "That's the biggest key with the language. ... We have a catch phrase: 'Use it or lose it.'"

Phelps said he tried to learn Arabic in college but after the coursework he had no context for it and thus today he remembers almost nothing of the language.

The Modern Language Association's analysis of U.S. Census data from 2000 shows Spanish is by far the most common language other than English spoken in the U.S. So it's probably got a leg up in the relevancy department. No doubt you already know a few words or phrases from popular culture, but how can you take it further?

A good first step is to find a class. Online resources can be helpful, but the best thing is to get connected with somebody who understands the culture, Phelps said.

"The grammar and the culture are inextricably linked," Phelps said. "The culture provides the background."

You don't need a classroom setting, but it's important to find somebody who can be a guide. Between lessons, classes or practice sessions, keep at it.

Phelps finds it helpful to monologue to himself. When he is thinking about a particular topic, he tries to do so in Spanish.

You can also boost your skills by listening to music with Spanish lyrics. (Phelps suggested Shakira because her music is readily available and the grammar is largely correct in her songs). Find some Spanish music you like and sing along to it.

"It's ... another opportunity to build vocabulary and get some greater context... And it's kind of fun," he said. "Once you have the songs memorized, you can sing in the car, in the shower, while you cook..."

Phelps suggested finding things to read in Spanish outside a class, for pleasure. You might not be able to comprehend a whole Spanish novel, but you might be able to make your way through news articles in Spanish. Phelps said he keeps up with Spanish soccer news.

"It's a good venue to pick up additional vocabulary," Phelps said. "I like it and I find it interesting, and so I'm motivated to do it." Newspapers are a good place for beginners

Hablo français

Here are some resources that can help you wow by ordering dinner in the native language on your overseas trip.

Conversation groups

- **Chinese** group meets twice monthly at Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua. Visit nashualibrary.org or call Carol at 589-4610.
- **French** Club Richelieu for French-speakers in Greater Nashua holds dinner meetings monthly. Call 889-7112.
- **Italian** conversation group at Nashua Public Library meets weekly. Contact Carol at carol.eyman@nashualibrary.org or 589-4610.
- **Italian** Bedford Italian Cultural Society holds monthly meetings (except July and August) at the Bedford Public Library on Meetinghouse Road. Parliamo Italiano chat sessions meet weekly. Mem-

bership is \$15 per year. Visit bics-nh.org.

• **Lithuanian** group meets at Nashua Public Library. Visit nashualibrary.org or call Carol at 589-4610.

• **Spanish** conversation group at Nashua Public Library meets weekly. Call Carol at 589-4610.

Classes

These are some of the formal language classes offered in the area. Most charge tuition. See websites for current schedules.

- **Chinese** classes from the Derry Chinese School, including preschool, child, teen and adult programs, are offered at Marion Gerrish Community Center (39 W. Broadway, Derry). Call 888-928-8470 or visit derrychineseschool.org.
- **Chinese Mandarin** classes are offered at New Hampshire Chinese School (in Concord at West Congregational Church,

499 N. State St.; in Nashua at Girls Inc., 27 Burke St.; and in Manchester, at Belknap Hall at Southern New Hampshire University, 2500 N. River Road). Levels range from preschool to adult, beginner to advanced. Visit nhChineseSchool.org or call 557-3836.

- **French** classes are offered through the Franco-American Centre (100 Saint Anselm Drive #1798, Davison Hall Manchester, 641-7114, facnh.com) for adult and youth, beginner through advanced learners. Tuition is \$100 or \$250, depending on the class. Most classes are 75 minutes. There is a mandatory yearly student Centre membership fee of \$35. Call the Centre or e-mail Pauline Guimond Grant, French classes coordinator, at cpgrant@com-cast.net.
- **German** classes are held by the NHGA German School

to turn, since their articles are typically written in easy-to-understand language, Phelps said. “For beginners, it’s going to be very, very difficult,” Phelps said. “But it’s exposure to standard everyday Spanish.”

If you’re just looking to get by on a trip, some canned phrases and a few conversational skills might be enough. Phelps said people pick up speaking skills much more quickly than writing skills.

How to: Learn to let go of clutter

Everybody probably wants to live in a neat and tidy home, but life gets in the way.

When the bills, the mail, the belongings and the junk pile up, Richard Barbalato comes to the rescue. Barbalato and his wife, Donna, own and operate Bee Organized (www.beeorganized-nh.com), a Frances-town company that works to de-clutter and organize people’s homes.

For Barbalato, organizing has become a way of life, but he’s always been efficient in his different careers. The job is different every day and it allows him to be creative. When he finishes a job, he and his wife have improved people’s lives and reduced people’s stress. It’s a pleasure to do what he does now. In many ways, particularly on bigger jobs, he’s helping to give people their lives back, he said.

“Life is very complicated in 2012, and we need to simplify our lives as much as possible,” Barbalato said.

He’s got tips for getting on the path to a de-cluttered life.

Number one, don’t overwhelm yourself, Barbalato said.

“We like to have people be successful at doing this,” he said.

The reality is that when people try to tackle everything at once, they get overwhelmed and they ultimately give up. So Barbalato suggests picking out two or three things to target.

Start with the mail. Every day, bring in the mail. Every day, take care of the mail. Don’t pile it up and walk away. If it’s a bill, pay it or file it. If it’s another credit card offer, recycle it.

“Take care of it,” Barbalato said. “That will take care of the mail clutter...which can really stress people out.”

for adult beginners with no knowledge of German, those with limited abilities, and those at advanced levels. Classes are conducted using German textbooks in an informal, speech-intensive manner, emphasizing German conversation, traditions and culture. Visit nhgerman.org.

- **Greek** classes for adults (beginner and intermediate) are held at St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral (650 Hanover St., Manchester). Reinforce and review your conversation & writing skills. Free. Call 497-4581.
- **Hebrew** classes are held at Congregation Betenu in Amherst (5 Northern Blvd, 886-1633, betenu.org) for ages 13 and older. Call 886-1633 or visit betenu.org.
- **Irish** (Gaelic) language classes for all levels are offered by Conradh na Gaeilge of New England, a

nonprofit Irish language organization in Manchester. Go to gaeilge.org/manchester.html or call 508-797-9482.

- **Spanish** is taught at the Adult Learning Center, 4 Lake St., Nashua. Beginning and intermediate conversation classes are offered. Call 598-8303 or visit adultlearningcenter.org.
- **Spanish** classes for adults are offered through Classes for Life, Community Education, held at Concord High School, 225-Warren St. in Concord, 225-0804, www.classesfor-life.com.
- **American Sign Language** community classes are held at 168 S. River Road in Bedford. Tutoring, private lessons, workshops and online classes are also available. See teachmesignlanguage.com.
- **American Sign Language** is taught at the Adult Learning Center, 4 Lake St., Nashua.

Particularly in tourist areas, a lot of people will speak English, but Phelps said they want to see people make the effort to speak Spanish. If someone is really struggling, they may suggest speaking in English, but it’s important to make the effort, Phelps said.

“It goes a long way to bridging that cultural gap,” Phelps said. “A little foundation is really, really helpful.”

Resources

- Bee Organized, www.beeorganized-nh.com, professional organizers.
- B. Lee Services, www.bleeservices.com, organizational consultant, 626-5629
- organizedhome.com, provides tips and guidance for overcoming clutter.
- realsimple.com, includes information on home organization.
- www.shopgetorganized.com, sells home organization products.

“Dispense with it,” Barbalato added. “After you get into the habit of doing it, you just do it. If you have piles, dispense with them.”

That’s simple. Barbalato has seen people with literally hundreds and hundreds of pieces of mail in stacks. The task becomes so huge that it just becomes a major stress factor. Handle it every day, and it’s never a big deal.

Next, take a room — basement, garage, a storage closet or a bedroom — whatever. But just take a single room. Barbalato suggests going through it and making piles. Make a pile of things you want to give away to people. Make a pile of things you want to sell, maybe on eBay or Craigslist. Make a pile of donations, perhaps items you could give to a charity or a place that can reuse them. And finally, make a pile of things you are simply going to throw out. Once the piles have been made, “dispense with it,” that is, make your donations, give stuff away, throw stuff out, actually do it.

It’s important to take just the one room at a time. Otherwise, again, it’s just too overwhelming. Once you’ve dealt with one room, move on to another, but take it one at a time, Barbalato said.

A six-week class focuses on basic signing techniques and interpretation as well as deaf cultural awareness. Call 882-9080, ext. 201.

- **All Learners**, 15 Constitution Drive, Bedford, offers French and Spanish classes for adults. Call 986-7001 or e-mail office@all-learners.com.
- **The New England Language Center** in Rochester offers classes in conversational Spanish, German, Russian, French, Italian, Portuguese, Swahili and English as a Second Language (ESL). Classes are available in eight-week sessions or individual instruction.
- **Manchester Community College**, 1066 Front St. in Manchester, 206-8000, www.mccnh.edu, offers a variety of language courses, including Spanish, German, French and sign language.

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People have “to do” lists. That’s not a bad thing. But don’t make them 20 pages long. Make a list of no more than 10 items. When you complete an item, cross it off, Barbalato said.

“It feels wonderful,” Barbalato said. “The

How to: Know when not to DIY

“I’m going to change my own oil” might be a thing you’ve thought to yourself. But it may be a good example of when not to try to do something yourself.

To Jon Chartier, oil changes just don’t get enough air time. And they aren’t all created equal.

Chartier, owner and mechanic at Commercial Tech Services in Bow, says there are a lot of misconceptions out there with regard to oil changes: how often to get them, what oil to use, synthetic versus conventional oil, to name a few. Manufacturers’ guidelines can be dramatically different from car to car.

Some manufacturers maintain you can drive more than 10,000 miles on a single oil change if high-quality products are used, including full synthetic oil. Chartier said that is possible, but only when no shortcuts are taken.

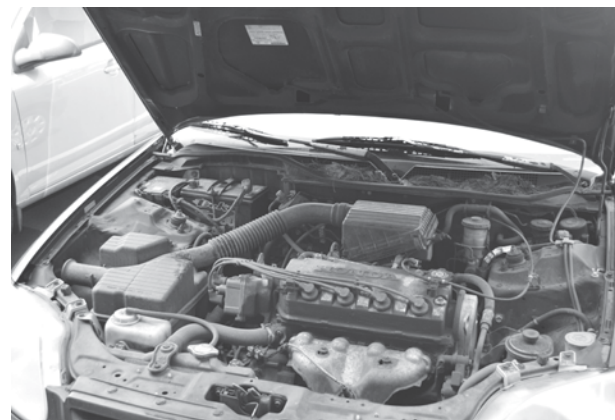
The oil’s biggest function is to lubricate all the bearing surfaces in the engine — crank shaft bearings, valve trim bearings and connecting rod bearings, to name a few. Over time, the oil begins to break down as it is exposed to the heat of the engine. Turbo-charged engines, since they run hotter, break down oil faster, Chartier said. The oil is circulated through the engine by the oil pump and is filtered through the oil filter. Most turbo-charged engines have a cooling mechanism to cool the oil somewhat.

One thing is for sure: Changing the oil isn’t the Saturday morning chore for dad it used to be, Chartier said.

“Things have changed a lot, and I don’t recommend it anymore,” Chartier said.

At the end of the day, doing it yourself is only going to save you about \$10. Chartier estimated a quality oil change should cost about \$30 at a reputable automotive shop.

Whether your plan is to change the oil yourself or not, Chartier had some advice for people trying to provide care for their



Changing the oil isn’t so simple anymore. Photo by Jeff Mucciarone.

vehicle.

For a regular conventional oil change, the technicians at Commercial Tech are going to slap a sticker on your car that suggests coming back for an oil change in 3,500 miles. Realistically, that’s a little early. But the average customer isn’t going to bring the car back right when the sticker says to. On average, customers exceed 3,500 miles by about 1,500 miles. That puts things in the 5,000-mile bracket and that’s a good mark for an oil change.

“The 3,000-mile number is really an old-school number, and with the technology in engines and in engine oil, you can definitely go longer,” Chartier said.

Synthetic oil does last longer, perhaps double the mileage of conventional oil. Synthetic oil stands up to thermal breakdown better than conventional oil, which is a crude oil that comes from the ground. Synthetic oil is manmade. Mobil 1 is the most popular synthetic oil, though Chartier personally recommends Valvoline full synthetic.

Take into account how you use your vehicle. If it’s a pretty standard back and forth to work each day, totaling 15,000 to 20,000 miles each year, that’s light or regular use. If you’re a soccer mom putting 25,000 to 30,000 miles on a car, Chartier considers that heavy use — all that stop-and-start and idling is like the wear on a taxi cab. Highway driving means a more consistent engine temperature, and the engine will experience less contamination and dust.

“Highway driving is significantly easier on the car,” Chartier said, noting that even at faster speeds, the engine runs better and more efficiently.

A lot depends on what people do with their cars. In the long run, it’s probably going to cost less to go with a full synthetic oil, since you’d be getting at least half the oil changes. But there are other factors, such as the quality of the oil and the quality of the filter, which Commercial Tech changes with each oil change.

“You can go to the local quickie mart and get one for \$1.25,” Chartier said. “But it’s

But if you insist on changing the oil yourself...

Though Chartier does not recommend doing it on your own, he did provide a step-by-step guide for the very determined. Find it with the online version of this article at www.hippopress.com.

And of course, read the **Car Talk** column every week in the Hippo.

not nearly the quality of a filter that costs \$4 or \$5.”

More and more car companies are going toward a cartridge-style oil filter, many of which require a specific tool to remove. It’s changes like that that suggest to Chartier that manufacturers are trying to make it more difficult for people to change their own oil.

Also, most vehicles today require a specific computer to reset the oil change reminder function. There are specific procedures for resetting the reminder, but people would have to perform an Internet search to come up with those.

“There are procedures to turn a key to a specific spot, and then you go through and reset some of the specific diagnostic tools,” Chartier said. Some are easy. Some are not, he said. Auto shops have to buy computer programs that keep the reset information on hand for any car that comes in.

With cars becoming more aerodynamic, they have also gotten lower to the ground. That means people can have trouble accessing the oil plug without jacking the car up. That maneuver gets into some safety issues.

How to: **Make dessert with fire — and other cooking fun**

Crème brûlée is a marquee dessert for sure. Most people have probably had it. But perhaps they haven’t tried making the sweetly creamy dish that involves a blowtorch themselves. Maybe that blowtorch piece kind of scares you. That’s OK. You can work around that. Or conquer your fears.

“With a little patience, it’s easy to do,” said Stefan Ryll, a culinary chef at Southern New Hampshire University. “If you’re having a big party, you can make it the day before and then all you have to do is just put on the sugar, caramelize it, and serve. ... It’s a nice light dessert. It’s creamy and rich, but it’s small, usually one to three ounces, so you’re not totally full after.”

Ryll offered a basic recipe, some tips, and a few variations on the classic French dessert.

To start, you need six egg yolks, 4 ounces of granulated sugar, 24 ounces of heavy cream, 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract, 1 pinch of salt. You’ll also need an additional 2 ounces of granulated sugar and 2 ounces of brown sugar for the caramelization process. Ryll’s recipe serves six.

Begin by mixing together the egg yolks and the 4 ounces of granulated sugar until it’s well-combined. You can do that by hand, no mixer required. As you mix, slowly heat up the heavy cream. Heat the heavy cream until just before it boils; then turn it off.

Fold the heavy cream slowly into the egg mixture, just a little bit at a time. Be careful

Chartier said people can go buy little ramps or a hydraulic jack, but they don’t come with safety stands. “You have to have safety stands,” Chartier said.

You also need an oil catch bucket, and you need tools to change the filter. More and more cars have plastic shields covering the engine beneath the car, and those need to be removed for an oil change as well.

“The days of a 10- to 15-minute oil change are really becoming less and less frequent,” Chartier said. “People are running into more and more obstacles. Cars are becoming more efficient, but working on them isn’t as efficient as it used to be.”

Disposing of the oil is another consideration. It is considered a hazardous material. And people have to make sure they tighten filters and drain plugs properly, Chartier said.

A simple misstep, such as forgetting to remove the old filter seal and accidentally sealing over it, could leave you with a ruined engine, almost instantly.

“I’m not recommending doing it for a lot of reasons,” Chartier said.



Make a basic creme brulee or make a variation with berries, coffee or chocolate. Photo by Stefan Ryll.

— you don’t want the heavy cream to turn the egg mixture into scrambled eggs, Ryll said. As you mix, whisk the first third of the cream quickly. After you’ve added a third of the cream, begin to whisk more slowly. That helps prevent creating too many bubbles.

“You want the crème brûlée to be nice and smooth on top,” Ryll said.

Place six 1-inch-deep ramekins in a hotel pan or a baking dish with a rim on the side. Divide the custard evenly among the ramekins. Then pour water into the pan so that it reaches about halfway up the sides of the ramekins, so it provides a little steam, Ryll said.

If you do have some bubbles on the top, and if you do have a blowtorch, you can go

Cooking!
A number of local resources will help you utilize your kitchen, or let you watch the pros in action.

- **Southern New Hampshire University**, www.snhu.edu, 2500 N. River Road in Manchester, has a degree program in culinary arts. Call 800-668-1249.
- **Chez Boucher Culinary Arts Training Center**, www.chezboucher.com, 32 Depot Square in Hampton, offers a range of classes from one-day workshops to a

full culinary program.

- **Forkidswhocook.com**, based in Derry, features products and programs for kids. Send e-mail to lisa@forkidswhocook.com or call 591-5918.
- **The Creative Feast**, 5 Broad St. in Hollis, www.thecreativefeast.com, hosts cooking demonstrations. Send e-mail to lizb@thecreativefeast.com or call 321-5011.
- **Things are Cooking**, 74 N. Main St. in Concord, www.thingsarecooking.com, sells cookware and offers profes-

sional knife-sharpening. Call 225-8377.

- **Recipe for Success** culinary job training program at the New Hampshire Food Bank, West Brook Street, Manchester, nhfoodbank.org, offers training and experience to unemployed and under-employed adults who wish to obtain jobs in the food service industry. Students earn 260 hours of commercial cooking and food safety skills, résumé development, and effective interview techniques. Call 669-9725.

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over the top of the custard with the blowtorch just slightly to burst the bubbles.

"It'll go bump, bump, bump and you'll have a nice smooth service," Ryll said. But don't overdo it. You're just bursting bubbles, not trying to cook it.

Place the dish carefully in a 350-degree oven and let it cook until the custard is set, which should take 20 to 25 minutes. That can vary from oven to oven, so check it after 20 minutes and if it is still runny, pop it back in for a few more minutes. When it's done, there should be no liquid.

Sometimes the custards on the outside cook a little faster than the ones on the inside of the pan. When they have a minute or two left, take the pan out, and remove the outside custards. Leave the inside custards in the pan in the water, outside the oven, for another 10 minutes or so.

Then, take the custards out of the pan and let them sit at room temperature. Then refrigerate them for at least four hours or overnight.

Now it's time to get out the blowtorch, which, obviously, you should be very careful with. "Crème brûlée" actually means "burnt cream."

Take the custards out of the fridge and dab the moisture off the top with a small paper towel.

Mix the 2 ounces of granulated sugar and the 2 ounces of brown sugar together and sprinkle the mix evenly over the custards.

Take the blowtorch, light it, and work your way carefully over the top of the custards. When the sugar starts to bubble and it gets a little brown, get the flame away from it.

"You want a nice, soft, brown color, not totally burned," Ryll said.

How to: Save for the good life

The biggest part of saving for retirement is bothering to do it.

Yes, retirement is 25, 30, maybe 40 years away, but now is the time to begin putting money away.

Why? The answer is simple and obvious: "so you can have money when you are older," said Michael Swack, an economics professor at the University of New Hampshire.

People know it. But many still don't do it, even though employers and the government lay out the incentives. Swack said about half of Americans are not contributing to any type of retirement plan.

One big reason is simply inertia: "You have to open an account and decide to put money into it," Swack said. "It requires you to do something affirmative." Swack said research

If you don't have a blowtorch, go ahead and use your broiler, but you've got to get the ramekins very close to the heat, and you've got to pay close attention. You don't want to melt the sugar. You want it nicely browned, Ryll said.

The finished product should have a caramelized, thin, hard crust, with the creamy custard underneath. Ryll suggests serving the crème brûlée within two hours. Over time, the sugar crust will soften.

"You want a nice crunch," Ryll said. "A nice crunch, with a nice creamy custard."

For variation, add a little coffee extract or coffee powder to the hot cream mixture. Taste it to decide whether you need more coffee flavor. Or add a teaspoon of cinnamon to the hot cream before you fold the cream into the eggs.

If you like chocolate, as Ryll does, change the cream mixture to half heavy cream and half milk. Then add 4 ounces of melted bittersweet chocolate to the hot cream. If you prefer sweeter, add semisweet chocolate.

But Ryll's personal favorite, and it's in season right now, is to make a crème brûlée with berries. Add the berries to the ramekins before you add the custard mixture.

"You have this nice crunch, the nice sweetness from the custard, and then the berries," Ryll said. Try raspberries, strawberries, blueberries or blackberries. "It's like flavors exploding in your mouth."

Regardless of the variation you choose, Ryll suggested serving crème brûlée with a little whipped cream on top. Don't sweeten the cream too much. Berries make a great garnish as well, whether you use them in the custard or not, Ryll said.

"It looks nice as a presentation, as well," Ryll said.

has found the majority of people will contribute to a retirement plan if their company automatically enrolls them in it when they begin the job — they won't bother to opt out. On the other hand, they also won't bother to opt in: The majority of people will not take the initiative to enroll themselves if the company doesn't automatically enroll them.

For young people, it is difficult to think about what life will be like when they are 60, 70 or 80 years old. They may not be making much money right now.

"People think about doing fun stuff when they're older," Swack said. "They want to retire and travel the world. They want to have fun and have great meals every night.... But they don't think about it on the practical side." So what should you do, practically?

Making retirement decisions

There are plenty of companies and financial planners happy to provide advice on how much money to save and how to invest it. There are also online resources. Here are some investment companies, financial advisors and some links to help you get started saving for retirement.

- **www.bankrate.com**, includes a retirement calculator, articles and advice
- **money.cnn.com/retirement**, provides articles, advice and news
- **www.dol.gov/ebsa/publications/10_ways_to_**

prepare.html, for tips on saving

- **www.kiplinger.com**, for articles, news and advice, as well as a retirement calculator
- **Economic opportunity programs** at Millyard Technology Park, Pine Street Ext., Nashua. For programs in computer training (intro to the PC, Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint and Outlook) call 594-8513 or e-mail jbarrett@snhs.org. For programs in financial literacy and educational goals (borrowing money, establishing good credit, and developing a personal budget plan) call Jennifer Spencer, 886-

2866. For info about starting a small business and self-employment, call Sara Varela, 800-769-3482. For programs in ESL and learning conversational English and life skills, call 594-8513 or e-mail jbarrett@snhs.org. • **Manchester Community College** (1066 Front St. in Manchester, 668-6706, manchestercommunitycollege.edu) offers classes in personal financial management. Call for availability. • **UNH Cooperative Extension** (877-398-4769, extension.unh.edu) offers classes in personal finance and investing. See schedule on website.

First off, if your company offers a 401(k) plan and you're not enrolled, talk to Human Resources and get enrolled. You'll need to decide how much to contribute. If your company will make matching contributions, you should contribute at least the maximum amount they'll match. An employer match is free money; take it.

Another option is an Individual Retirement Account. That's something you'd open at a financial institution on your own, the same way you'd open a checking account at a bank. You can choose a traditional IRA, in which you make contributions pre-tax, or a Roth IRA, in which you make contributions after taxes. In a traditional IRA, the money gets taxed when you withdraw it. So each year, let's say you contribute \$2,000 to your IRA. When you file your taxes each year, you can deduct your income by \$2,000. For Roth IRAs, since the money goes in after tax, you don't get taxed when you withdraw funds. Financial advisors can help you decide what is best for you. Websites like www.bankrate.com can be helpful, as well.

If you've been earning pay and not putting any of it aside, the switch to saving for retirement might seem like a jolt.

"It's hard to see that paycheck go down," Swack said. "If you know you're going to get \$2,000 this pay period, you think you really can't have it go down to \$1,800."

Even if you can only contribute a small amount, like \$100 per month, Swack says do it. And the sooner the better.

Let's say you invest \$200 per month in a Roth IRA beginning at age 25. By the time you are 65, with a 7-percent rate of return,

the account will be worth \$497,000. (You can argue that that rate of return is high or low.) If you begin making \$200 monthly contributions at the age of 35, with the same rate of return, the account will be worth \$235,000 when you turn 65. If you wait until you're 45 to begin making \$200 contributions, the account will be worth \$102,000. Do your own calculations at bankrate.com.

"The earlier you start, the better off you'll be," Swack said. "It really does make a big difference."

If your employer offers more than one plan or you're going it alone, if there are choices that must be made — stocks vs. bonds, this fund vs. that one — then what? There are lots of brokerage firms and investment options, but a simple trip to your bank to meet with its financial advisor can get you started. Keep in mind, Swack said, that financial advisors at specific companies, like Fidelity or Bank of America, may try to get you to invest in their products. You can go with an independent investment agent, but that objectivity costs money.

Typically, for younger folks, advisors suggest buying some riskier stocks now knowing that over the long term you'll be able to withstand swings in the market. You can gradually shift to more stable funds as you near retirement. Some companies offer plans that alter your investment allocations automatically every five years or so with this in mind.

In any event, Step 1 is visiting Human Resources or meeting with a financial advisor.

"Break through the inertia and do it," Swack said.

How to: Dress for the occasion

If you're heading out for a job interview, you wear a suit, right? Probably, but what if the workplace is casual? And once you've got the job, what's appropriate to wear?

Stephanie McLaughlin, owner of Savoir Faire Marketing Communications in Manchester, has some thoughts.

"There has been a massive casualization ... in all kinds of workplaces," McLaughlin said. "Even places where people have worn suits for generations are starting to loosen their ties a little bit.... That being said, it's better to be overdressed than underdressed."

In a job interview, you can never go wrong with a suit, whether you're male or female, McLaughlin said. You might be a little overdressed depending on the office, but no interviewer is going to be surprised by an interviewee wearing a suit.

Bernie Marchowsky, marketing director at George's Apparel in Manchester, gives "Dress for Success" presentations; he recommends a suit in most situations, or at least a sports coat and nice pants. He echoed McLaughlin, saying it is better to be overdressed than underdressed. He suggested avoiding anything trendy for a job interview. No Jerry Garcia ties, he said; wear a medium to dark suit 12 months out of the year.

"The emphasis shouldn't be on the clothing; it should be on you," Marchowsky said.

At some workplaces, employee dress might be as casual as jeans and T-shirts. If you know that in advance, you might choose to wear a nice pair of dress pants and a well-pressed shirt, McLaughlin said. But when you're interviewing, you could be meeting with someone in a leadership role. Even if your prospective workmates wear casual attire, the people you're interviewing



While some workplaces may be more casual today, the experts say you can never go wrong with wearing a suit for a job interview. Photo by Jeff Mucciarone.

with might not be so casual, and it's their attire you want to mirror in an interview, McLaughlin said.

"If they're in a more corporate position that's more formal ... make sure it's appropriate for you to sit in the same room as them," McLaughlin said. "Not only does that give you a little more credibility, it gives you more confidence...."

If you wear a suit and then it turns out the environment is khaki pants and a polo shirt, when you get dropped off in the conference room, take off your jacket and roll up your sleeves. Don't do that in front of the hiring manager, but if you get a chance before the interview starts, those kind of "on-the-fly edits" show that you are taking your setting into account.

Regardless of what you're wearing, there are some guidelines. For one thing, wear clothing that fits you. If you've put on 10 pounds since you last wore the outfit, that's going to show. Shirts should be ironed and

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you should be wearing closed-toe shoes. Make sure accessories are in good shape — shoes should be polished and not scuffed.

"If you do take your coat off during an interview and you have a white shirt with stained armpits, that doesn't help you," McLaughlin said.

If you own more than one suit, maybe choose a wool suit in February and something lighter during the summer. If you have one suit, make it work — in the summer, you might choose a lighter-color tie or accessory if the suit is dark.

And don't worry too much, as long as you've got the basics down. "You just can't go wrong if your clothing is clean, crisp and professional, if the outfit is well put together," McLaughlin said.

You've got the job — now what?

McLaughlin sticks to her philosophy that it's better to be overdressed than underdressed.

For women, that means skirts that are knee-length or below. There should never be any cleavage, and women should make sure to have sleeves. For the most part, women want to choose close-toe shoes. McLaughlin admitted that that might sound boring and stuffy, but in a lot of workplaces, that's simply what is appropriate, even in July and August.

True, as McLaughlin said previously, more and more workplaces are becoming more and more casual. Perhaps that's tied to an influx of newer generations running those workplaces. The new leaders come in with their own sense of propriety and style. It happens with every generation.

While Marchowsky has also seen workplaces go more casual, he still sees lots of people in the corporate and financial worlds who wear suits and ties every day.

Even if everyday attire at an office is casual, employees often want or need to look more professional when they have

appointments or important meetings. Dress appropriately for what you're doing that day. It's a good idea to have a blazer at your desk, in case something comes up that requires a more professional look.

It's probably a little easier for men to dress appropriately than women, but there are still rules for men too. Don't wear anything you would mow the lawn in to work, McLaughlin said. Typically, T-shirts are too casual for the workplace. To McLaughlin, it's all about a nice pair of khaki pants and a polo shirt. Some workplaces are going to be more or less casual than that, but that's fairly standard today, she said.

When you're attending a work picnic, say, on the weekend, McLaughlin suggested wearing what you might wear to your grandmother's 80th birthday party.

"You want to be covered, with no excessive cleavage or short shorts," McLaughlin said. Make sure clothes are clean and that they fit. Wear "clothes that are flattering. For women, that could be a sun dress. For men, that could be a pair of Bermuda shorts and a polo shirt." Polo shirts are readily available at stores ranging in expense from Old Navy to Ralph Lauren. Men can spend \$10 to \$100 on a polo shirt, she said.

McLaughlin did caution that less expensive clothing can deteriorate more quickly. New clothes will look good whether they came from a cheap department store or a more expensive seller. But before long, the cheaper materials can fray or develop pills.

Maybe invest in a few nice pairs of khakis — but if you're prone to stains on your shirts, don't go out and buy \$50 polo shirts; opt for less expensive ones, she said.

McLaughlin's motto remains that it's better to be overdressed than underdressed.

"Just because somebody else is wearing a tank top and flip-flops doesn't mean you should as well," McLaughlin said.

Beyond the outfit

These are just some of the resources that can help you make your way in the professional world in southern New Hampshire.

- **Stay Work Play**, www.stay-workplay.org, New Hampshire nonprofit dedicated to keeping young people living and working in New Hampshire. Offers job and career resources, as well as networking events. Contact Kate Luzcko at kate@stayworkplay.org or call 860-2245.

- **Manchester Young Professionals Network**, offers a number of networking events, hosted a "Dress for Success" presentation on Wednesday, July 18, at Manchester Community College from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., manchesteryoung-professionalsnetwork.org.

- **iUGO**, Nashua young professionals organization, iugonashua.com, 881-8333.

- **Concord Young Professionals Network**, www.concordypn.org

- **New Hampshire Employment Security's Job Seeker** section online at www.nhes.nh.gov/services/job-seekers/

[index.htm](#) offers interview guidance.

- **Picanso Resume**, picansoresume.s5.com, 998-4009, professional résumé-writing service in Manchester.

- **Creative Professional Resumes**, 491 Amherst St. Suite 9, in Nashua, www.rnd-designs.com, 880-3980, professional resume writing service.

- **Job Corps** is open to people ages 16 to 24 who are unemployed and need a job. Every Tuesday at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. there is an information session about how to obtain free job training, high school diploma/GED, driver's license and job placement assistance. Sessions take place at the Job Corps Office, 50 Bridge St., Suite 306, Manchester. Call 627-2891.

- **Women Supporting Women** holds leadership workshops and other professional support groups at 111 Water St., Suite 2, Exeter. Call 772-0799 or visit www.wswcenter.com.

- **Business After Hours** is hosted monthly by the Peterborough Chamber of Commerce. Call 924-7234 for

dates and locations.

- **abi Innovation Hub** at 33 S. Commercial St. in Manchester offers coaching, work space, administrative services and other resources for startup companies and entrepreneurs. Contact Jamie Coughlin at jamie@abihub.org.

- **Free résumé-writing workshop** on Wednesday, July 25, 5:30-8 p.m., to help those out of work or those hoping to change jobs, at the Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications, 749 E. Industrial Park Drive, Manchester. Instructor David Yudkin of Creative Professional Resumes will cover what should and should not be included in a résumé. Visit loeb-school.org or call 627-0005.

- **Business Founders Series** through abi Innovation Hub presents Dyn, a successful New Hampshire startup company, on Tuesday, Aug. 14, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Dyn, Inc. (150 Dow St., Tower 2, Manchester). Learn how to start, innovate and grow business by listening to advice from some of the most successful founders in New England. Email jamie@abihub.org.

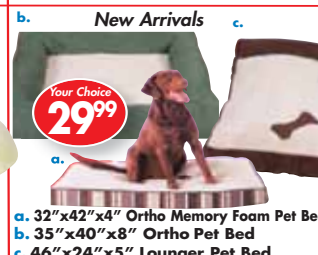
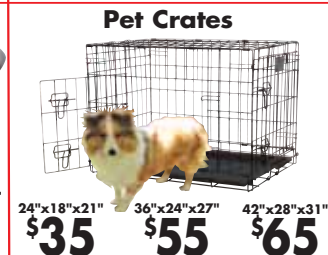
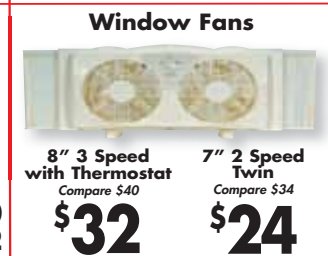
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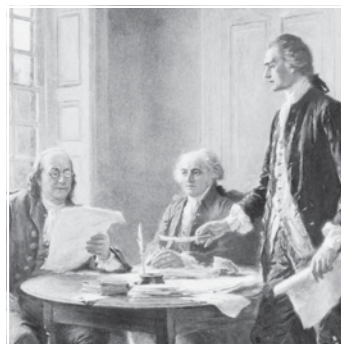
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Saturday, July 21

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Sunday, July 22

It's the last day of the Stratham Fair for 2012. The fair, which begins Thursday, July 19, is held in Stratham Hill Park on Route 33 and has the usual fun for all ages, including 4-H activities and exhibits, rides, music, magic acts, arts and crafts, oxen pulling, a lobster festival and the Miss Stratham Fair pageant. The weekend ends with a fireworks bang tonight around 9:30 p.m. Gates open at 8 a.m. fairgrounds and rides at 10 a.m. View the horse pull at noon, the pig scramble at 2 p.m., pie-eating contest at 3 p.m., and something called Bad Prom Date at 6 p.m. Visit www.strathamfair.com for a detailed schedule. Day passes cost \$8 (\$5 for ages 6-12 or 65 and older, free for ages 5 and younger). P.S. The schedule also calls for "Rabbit Hurdling Competition." This does not mean people hurdling over rabbits.



Sunday, July 22

Get a breath of fresh air and enjoy rural New Hampshire: The Barnstead Farmers and Gardeners Network is hosting its first annual Open Farm Day. Visitors may explore these farms: Duane Family Farm (122 Suncook Valley Road, 435-6867, duane-familyfarm.com, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.), Granite State Alpaca Farm (1575 Province Road, 435-6085, granitestatealpaca.com, noon to 4 p.m.), Mountain View Farm (710 S. Barnstead Road, 269-0127, noon to 4 p.m.), Sticks and Stones Farm (107 White Oak Road, 776-8989, sticksandstonesfarm.net, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) Tiz a Miniature Horse Farm (158 Garland Road, 435-7351, tizaminihorses.com, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.) and Veggies Galore and More (501 N. Barnstead Road, 387-7539, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.). Maps are available at Barnstead Community Market, 13A Parade Road, Barnstead.

Saturday, July 21

Go paddling with pals on the Merrimack River: The staff of Amoskeag Fishways (6 Fletcher St., Manchester, 626-3474) and the New Hampshire chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club will lead a day of canoeing from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Merrimack. It's free, but bring your own life jacket if you have one, and you must register in advance to participate. Call the Fishways or visit amoskeagfishways.org to sign up.



Monday, July 23

Beam yourself to Regal Fox Run Stadium 15 in Newington (45 Gosling Road, 431-6116, www.regmovies.com) for the *Star Trek: The Next Generation* 25th Anniversary Event showing of two of the series' most popular episodes, "Where No One Has Gone Before" (Ep. 106) and "Datalore" (Ep. 114), tonight only at 7 p.m. It's a one-night-only celebration in theaters to psych us up for the July 24 release of *TNG* Season 1 on Blu-ray. In addition to the two episodes, you'll also see some special features from the Blu-ray set, including interviews and behind-the-scenes stuff. See trailers and order tickets in advance (\$12.50) via www.startrek.com.

Free: Summer concerts

On **Thursday, July 19**, see Grupo Fantasia at 7 p.m. on the Nashua Library plaza, MB Padfield and the Manchester Community Music School Summer Band at 7 p.m. in Manchester's Veterans Park, or Marlana Phillips at lunchtime on the Milford Oval. On **Wednesday, July 25**, catch the Andy Frankhouse Jazz Trio at noon at the Nashua library. On **Thursday, July 26**, it's the 39th Army Band and The Pedestrians at 7 p.m. at Veterans Park in Manchester.

Cheap: Robin Hood

Tickets are \$5 to see *Interactive Robin Hood* presented by Theatre Under the Stars and Manchester Community Theatre Players on Wednesday, July 25. The family-friendly comedy will be performed on the grounds of the Jewish Federation of NH, 698 Beech St., Manchester. Doors open at 6 p.m., show is at 6:30 p.m. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and picnic basket if you want (refreshments are available). The show will be indoors if it rains. Call 726-0098 or visit mctp.info.

Splurge: Fun times

Go "**Saturday Night Wild**" for \$35 on July 21 at Squam Lakes Natural Science Center (Holderness, nhnature.org, 968-7194). The live comedy show and auction runs from 6 to 9:30 p.m. and features live music and a cash bar. Registration is required; email info@nhnature.org or call.

Or go Saturday serene for \$65 on July 21 at the "**Awake in Wholeness**" silent retreat 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Center for Health Promotion in Concord (49 Main St., 230-7300). Call to register.

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Take the trolley tour

Free admission and free rides to art galleries

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

It's like a two-for-one special, except that it's free. The 10th Annual Open Doors Trolley Tour will transport riders from art gallery to art gallery in Manchester on Thursday, July 26, from 5 to 8 p.m. Visitors will see how diverse and colorful Manchester's art scene is, while also enjoying a free ride in these historic cars. Galleries that are normally closed in the evening will stay open for this event.

The trolley tour started as a project of the New Hampshire Institute of Art but was later adopted by the Majestic Theatre.

"Many of the people who go to art museums are the same people who will go to the theater. With all of the open doors, participants can see everything that is happening in Manchester's visual art scene," said Majestic Theatre Director Rob Dionne.

Both the trolley ride and all of the gallery exhibits are free. There's no excuse not to support your local artists on this night.

Two trolleys will circulate the same route, stopping at each venue about every 30 min-

utes. Visitors can take the trolley if they wish, or can walk or drive the route themselves.

Of course, in a trolley art tour, the trolley ride is part of the fun itself.

These trolleys come from Chichester, Dionne said. "They're beautiful — these trolleys have a more artsy feel — it just adds to the experience," he said.

Dionne advises participants to begin at whatever gallery appeals most to them.

The Art 3 Gallery (44 W. Brook St., Manchester, 668-6650) showcases "2D/3D," a colorful show in media like new oil, acrylic, pastel, glass and ceramic, full of movement and patterns. This show will be on display until Sept. 28.

Or stop by at the Art on the Wall at City Hall Gallery (One City Hall Plaza, Manchester, 624-6500), which features works by artist of the year Thomas A. Wright, a local photographer known for his New Hampshire scenes and "Body Parts" series.

The Framers Market (1301 Elm St., Manchester, 668-6989) hosts a multi-artist show featuring rural images of animals and farm life in a variety of styles. Refreshments will

be served, and visitors can sign up to win a free restaurant gift certificate.

Go down the line and visit Langer Place (55 S. Commercial St., Manchester, 626-4388), with "Treasures Near and Far," at East Colony Fine Art, showcasing the work of Cheryl Vratsenes and Don Desmarais. At Haropulos Photography Studio, visitors will see "Light Fantastic," a collection of fantasy and whimsical pieces by photographer Althea Haropulos and Jeremy McHugh.

Manchester Mills Studios (21 W. Auburn St., Manchester, 645-6873) are home to a diverse collection of artists, designers and craftsmen, boasting pottery, jewelry, mixed media, art, custom cabinetry, costumes and quilts. At the Museware Pottery Showroom and Outlet, visitors will find personalized pottery, altered clothing and local handmade gifts. Don't miss NuArt Jewelry or Sweet Caroline Art, either.

Also in the Millyard, visit the Millyard Museum (200 Bedford St., Manchester, 622-7531) and the SEE Science Center (200 Bedford St., Manchester, 669-0400). The Millyard will show off its new permanent exhibit,



Courtesy photo.

"Woven in Time: 11,000 Years at Amoskeag Falls," with artifacts, documents, objects and artwork. At the SEE Science Center, visitors can get a free look at the center's "Secrets of Circles" exhibit.

The tour originator, the New Hampshire Institute of Art (148 Concord St. and the Amherst Street Gallery at 77 Amherst St., Manchester, 623-0313) selects works by the graduating class of 2012 ranging from ceramics to illustration to photography.

Maps and parking are available at the Majestic Theatre (281 Cartier St., Manchester), and admission is free at all venues. Call 669-7469.

24 Art

Includes listings for gallery events, ongoing exhibits and classes. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

29 Theater

Includes listings, shows, auditions, workshops and more. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

29 Classical

Includes symphony and orchestral performances. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

ART LISTINGS

Art events

- **POSITIVE STREET ART MURAL** will be painted by Cecilia Ulibarri, Manuel Ramirez and Margret Williams July 16-22 at the Dunkin Donuts at the corner of Main and Canal streets in Nashua, to reflect what PSA (positive street art) is as a whole. The public is invited to watch the process. Email positivestreetart@gmail.com.
- **"SHAPING OUR HERITAGE"** exhibit features artwork representing 16 years of traditional art apprenticeships in NH, in the Map Gallery in the NH State Library in Concord (20 Park St., Concord) through Fri., July 20, during regular library hours (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., weekdays). Free. In conjunction with the exhibit, free concerts will be performed at the Concord Community Music School: a performance of New England fiddling traditions on Sun., July 22, and a concert of Celtic music on Sun., July 29, both 2-4 p.m. Visit nh.gov/nharts.
- **SUNCOOK VALLEY ART AND ARTISAN TOUR** Sat., July 21, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., starting from Barnstead Town Hall (108 S. Barnstead Road, Barnstead, 269-2720).
- **WILLIAM DAVIS LECTURE** on "Luminous Landscapes in the Plain Air Tradition of the White Mountain School" on Sun., July 22, at 1 p.m. at the NH Antique Co-op, 323 Elm St., Milford. Call 673-8499. Followed by wine and cheese reception. Visit nhantiquecoop.com. In conjunction with Co-op's current exhibit, Landscapes of the White Mountain and Hudson River Schools, which will be on view

through Aug. 31.

- **PATRICIA LADD CAREGA GALLERY 10-YEAR CELEBRATION** is on Wed., July 25, 5-7 p.m. at the gallery (69 Maple St., Sandwich, 284-7728, patricialaddcarega.com). Guests are asked to bring hors d'oeuvres that look like their favorite piece of art.
- **TAMWORTH ANNUAL SUMMER ART SHOW & SALE** July 27-29, at Runnells Hall, Chocorua. Artist reception is Fri., July 27, 7-9 p.m. Meet artists, get an early chance to purchase work. Enjoy music, refreshments and mingling. Visit artstamworth.org. See Art in the Park on Sat., July 29. (Free admission).

Exhibit openings

- **TROPICA MODERNA** mixed-media installation by artist Ty Williams opens at 3S Artspace's store gallery (319 Vaughan St., Portsmouth) on Fri., July 20, available for viewing through Sun., Sept. 2.
- **8TH ANNUAL MEMBERS EXHIBITION** at 119 Gallery (119 Chelmsford St., Lowell) will be on display through Sat., July 28. See how 29 artists interpret the theme "That was then, this is now." Reception is Sat., July 21, 3-6 p.m.
- **DERELICT DISPATCHES** photo collection will be exhibited at the Sharon Arts Center (30 Grove St., Peterborough, sharonarts.org, 924-7676) July 20-Aug. 20. The photos come from a cell phone photography blog, "Derelict Dispatches." Reception Fri., July 20, 5-7 p.m. Visit derelictdispatch.es.
- **RED WHITE AND BLUE RECEPTION** for the Seacoast Artist Association July theme show will be held Thurs., July 19, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

at the gallery, 225 Water St., Exeter. Meet local artists and enjoy interpretations of the theme. Refreshments served. Exhibit for viewing until Fri., July 27. Email gallery@seacoast-artist.org or call 778-8856.

- **WILLIAM DAVIS PRESENTATION** on Sun., July 22, at 1 p.m. at New Hampshire Antique Co-op, 232 Elm St., Route 101A, Milford. Painter William Davis will present a lecture, "Luminous Landscapes in the Plain Air Tradition of the White Mountain School." Call 673-8499 or visit nhantiquecoop.com.
- **SUMMER SELECTIONS: NEW ART IN THE GALLERY** Tues., July 24, through Fri., Aug. 31. Opening reception is Fri., July 27, 5-7 p.m. at the gallery, 10 Hills Avenue, Concord. Recent works by familiar favorites to be on display. Call 225-2515 or visit mcgowanfineart.com or email jessica@mcgowanfineart.com.

the League of NH Craftsmen Meredith Retail Gallery (279 DW Highway, Meredith, 279-7920) during July. Fantastical collection of sea life in a variety of media from a variety of artists (glass seashells, sculpted octopi, blowfish teapot, etc.).

In the galleries

- **MARKS AND MODELS: MATTHEW BEST AND PAUL PHAM** share the gallery space in The Studio (84 Union Ave., Laconia). Exhibit on view through Aug. 3. Call 455-8008.
- **GOFFSTOWN MAIN STREET PROGRAM POP-UP GALLERY** (35 Main St., Goffstown, info@goffstownmainstreet.org) will be on display Friday-Sunday through Aug. 5. Prints, watercolors, acrylics.
- **TREASURES FROM NEAR AND AFAR** on exhibit through July 28 at East Colony Fine Art (55 S. Commercial St., Manchester, 621-7400, EastColony.com) featuring artwork by Cheryl Vratsenes and Don Desmarais.
- **UNDER THE SEA EXHIBIT** at

the League of NH Craftsmen Meredith Retail Gallery (279 DW Highway, Meredith, 279-7920) during July. Fantastical collection of sea life in a variety of media from a variety of artists (glass seashells, sculpted octopi, blowfish teapot, etc.).

- **ART OF JAMES M. O'BRIEN ON DISPLAY** at Rodgers Memorial Library (194 Derry Road, Hudson, 886-6030, rogerslibrary.org). Oil paintings of forest and mountain scenes during July. Visit jimobrienart.com.
- **BILL TYLER** oil and pastel paintings will be exhibited at the Amherst Town Library (14 Main St., Amherst) from mid-July through August.

- **MCGOWAN FINE ART SUMMER SELECTIONS** on exhibit July 24-Aug. 31 at the museum (10 Hills Ave., Concord, 225-2515). Recent works by familiar favorites to be on display from artists Melissa Anne Miller, Sally Ladd Cole, Bruce Campbell, Jenni Freidman, Bruce McColl, Anne Silber and Craig Stockwell. Visit mcgowanfineart.com or email jessica@mcgowanfineart.com.
- **TREASURES FROM NEAR AND AFAR** is a new exhibit at East Colony Fine Art (55 S. Commercial St., Manchester, 621-7400, EastColony.com) featuring artwork by Cheryl Vratsenes and Don Desmarais. Exhibition runs through July 28.
- **MARIPOSA MUSEUM** exhibit "Becoming--The Child's Journey to Adulthood," on display through mid-July, 26 Main St., Peterborough, 924-4555, mariposamuseum.org.
- **OLD MAN OF THE MOUNTAIN SERIES** at the Wine Studio (53 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 622-9463) through July 31. Artwork by Robert Vaillancourt, wines supplied by Pine State Beverages. Visit thewinestudionh.com.

In a gallery near you



Watercolor plus

Award-winning painter Suzanne Binnie showcases her artwork in an exhibition called "Culhaven Studios Presents" at Nashua Public Library

(2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4600) this month. The exhibition is a combination of watercolor, mixed media, ink, rice paper and Zentangle, which is a new passion of hers, Binnie said in a press release. "Art is problem-solving applied to combining shapes, colors, textures and hues in a stimulating and interesting way, to produce pleasing and satisfying images," said Binnie, who co-owns Culhaven Studios in Hollis. Her work can be seen during regular library hours at the library: Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Pictured: "Elephant Walk."

- **EXHIBITION TROPICA MODERNA** by artist Ty Williams opens at 3S Artspace's Store Gallery (319 Vaughan St., Portsmouth) Fri., July 20, through Sun., Sept. 2. Call 766-3330.
- **"ILLUMINATING LANDSCAPES"** and "Wild Lane" will be on display through Sun., July 29, at Thorne-Sagendorph Art Gallery at Keene State College (229 Main St., Keene, 358-2720, keene.edu/tsag).
- **ARNOLD NEWMAN: LUMINARIES OF THE 20TH CENTURY IN ART, POLITICS AND CULTURE** through Wed., Aug. 1, at the Lamont Gallery at Phillips Exeter.
- **MILL BROOK GALLERY & SCULPTURE GARDEN** (236 Hopkinton Road, Concord, 226-2046, themillbrookgallery.com) will present "In the Grain" through Sun., Aug. 19. Gallery hours are Tues.-Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
- **"ART OF THE ISLES OF SHOALS"** on display through Fri., Aug. 31, at the Discover Portsmouth Center (10 Middle St., Portsmouth, 436-8433, portsmouthhistory.org).
- **AT A GLANCE** exhibit will run through Fri., Aug. 31, at the Discover Portsmouth Center (10 Middle St., Portsmouth, 436-8433, portsmouthhistory.org). Open daily, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- **LANDSCAPES EXHIBIT** New Hampshire Antique Co-op and Jason Samuel Fine Art & Antiques will present "Landscapes of the White Mountain and Hudson River Schools" through Fri., Aug. 31, at the co-op, 323 Elm St., Milford, 673-8499, nhantiquecoop.com.

• **FARM AND FIELD** exhibit at the Framers Market (1301 Elm St., Manchester) Thurs., July 26, through Sat., Aug. 25. Multi-artist show, featuring rural images of NH's farmland. Opening reception is during the Open Doors Manchester Trolley night, July 26, 5-8 p.m. Free. Call 668-6989 or visit framersmarketh.com.

• **OPPOSITES ATTRACT** Multi-artist exhibit will be on display through summer at the Patricia Ladd Carega Gallery, 69 Maple St., Center Sandwich, 284-7728, patricialaddcarega.com. Gallery hours are Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sun., noon-5 p.m.


• **WATERCOLORS: "CULHAVEN STUDIOS PRESENTS"** by award-winning painter Suzanne Binnie are on display at the Nashua Library (2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4610) through August. Floral, animal, bird paintings and mixed media.

• **"TRANSCENDING NATURE: NEW PAINTINGS BY ERIC AHO"** will be on display at the Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St., Manchester, 669-6144 ext. 108, currier.org) through Sun., Sept. 9.

• **STRAWBERRY BANKE MUSEUM** (14 Hancock St., Portsmouth) presents "Thread: Stories of Fashion at Strawberry Banke, 1740-2012" through Oct. 31. Admission \$10-\$15 adults. Call 433-1100, or visit strawberrybanke.org.

• **ART IN THE MILL**, a rotating exhibit of artwork in the UNH Manchester library (400 Commercial St., Manchester, 641-4101, manchester.unh.edu/campuslife/public-programs/art-mill), presents photographs from Greece and Turkey by NH Institute of Art graduate Elizabeth Ellenwood. Free.


On stage



Wow, this movie stinks

This week at the Players' Ring (105 Marcy St., Portsmouth, 436-8123), audiences are in for a treat. In the style of Mystery Science Theater 3000, Stranger Than Fiction's Brian Paul will purposely show the worst movies in his archives, as he and other guest comedians comment throughout the films. The names of the films are being kept secret and will not be revealed until show time. Note: This event is not appropriate for children. Free popcorn and soda will be served. Tickets are \$12 general admission (\$10 for students and seniors). Visit playersring.org.

In a gallery near you



Snapshots

At the Sharon Arts Center in Peterborough, an online gallery becomes real — the works from the "Derelict Dispatches" photography blog will be featured in an exhibit in the Members Gallery, 20-40 Depot Square, July 20 through Aug. 20. Founded by four fine art photographers and New Hampshire Institute of Art alumni, Amy Regan, Devin Swett, Ian Hartsoe and Spencer Worthley, the exhibit will showcase a selection of photographs uploaded from the website, created to "capture the true essence of a moment, by viewing it through the many eyes of those who experienced it," Swett said in a press release. (Anyone can send phone pictures to post@derelictdispatch.es.) Call 924-7676 or visit sharonarts.org. Opening reception is Friday, July 20, from 5 to 7 p.m. Visit derelictdispatch.es.



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ART

Art as universal language

Peace Corps volunteer shows his work

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

It isn't often that a moldy orange is considered beautiful, but that's why Steve Sullivan wanted to make a painting of one. His paintings of decomposing oranges, confettied with oranges, browns, whites and greens, are on display this month throughout the Leach Library in Londonderry (276 Mammoth Road, 432-1132).

However, many visitors will find just as much that piques their interest in Sullivan's collection of smaller paintings tucked in a corner of the library. There, picturesque landscapes and images of brown, grassy huts, portray Senegal, Africa, where Sullivan spent the past three years serving as a Peace Corps volunteer.

"It's nice to come back and be painting again. It's something that's very familiar and cathartic for me. I've been incorporating my Peace Corps experience into my work, and it's helped with the transition, but it's also provided a vehicle to talk about where I was, what I did," Sullivan said. "For me, it feels like I'm paying respect to the people I was serving, who took me and cared for me like I was one of their own. This helps keep the story alive."

Sullivan, a 27-year-old Londonderry native, served in Senegal, on the northwestern tip of the continent, from 2008 to 2011. He worked to improve crop seeds in the village of Kedougou, where he lived.

His time there was not easy, but it was rewarding. The journey allowed him to go past his original service duty and use his talent as an artist.

During his extended three-year service — he chose to remain longer than required — he created little art for the simple sake of enjoyment. Instead, he helped volunteers create educational murals. He made visual learning aids for large-scale efforts, such as mosquito bed net distributions. And this work culminated in a larger project: He also created materials to educate local health workers on how to take village censuses. The training materials he created were later adopted by the Senegalese government's initiative against malaria, later to be reproduced and used by government officials independent from the Peace Corps.

As soon as he came home in December 2011, he began to paint images of the people, the landscapes, the mud houses where he had lived. These make up one portion of the exhibit at the library. The rest of his work presented there, including the decomposing orange series, was created pre-Peace Corps.

He describes his "Decomp Orange" series like this: "They're painted from life, but



Steve Sullivan, a Londonderry native, is showing his work at Leach Library. Courtesy photo.

there's an abstract concept. I took this thing that might not be considered worthy of painting, and created a series. For me as a painter, it's interesting for people to look at it and try to guess what it is. Many like it even more when they find out that it's a moldy piece of fruit," Sullivan said.

The newer paintings were inspired by Kedougou, and they center around its landscape and architecture — quaint brooks, canopy-like trees and thatched roof huts, clay walls and floors. They're scenes you'd see in and around the area.

In the studio, he's working on painting images of the people he met during his stay, especially children. They are so independent over there at such a young age, he said.

"Africa has a stigma to it — if you've never been, you immediately have an image of it. But there are so many different cultures, people there, and it's not all what you see on TV. Painting it helps in my re-adjustment back here," Sullivan said.

Painting Senegal also helps in another goal he had with the Peace Corps: educating Americans about the community he stayed with.

"Not to guilt-trip people, but just to educate people in how these people live, to tell their story," he said.

While he'd like to continue with art, his service has influenced what he wants to do with it. He's considering going back to grad school to learn how to apply his work for a greater cause, as he did in Senegal, creating educational and training products for developing countries. Art is, after all, a universal language.

• **DARLENE ROBYN** will showcase new Asian-inspired mixed media work at Hatfield Gallery (55 S. Commercial St., Manchester, 627-7560). Gallery hours are Tues.-Fri., 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., and Sat., 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
• **"DUNIA MOJA/ONE WORLD"** will be on display at Patricia Ladd Carega Gallery (69 Maple St., Sandwich, 284-7728, patricialaddcarega.com).
• **"EVERY PERSON HAS A STORY"** is on display at the Mariposa Museum (26 Main St., Peterborough, 924-4555, mariposamuseum.org).
• **KEN HEYMAN** will present his photographs in a new gallery exhibit, "Grandparents and Their

Children," at the Mariposa Museum (26 Main St., Peterborough, 924-4555, mariposamuseum.org).
• **NEW RETROSPECTIVE WORKS** by Roger Croteau at Hatfield Gallery, 55 S. Commercial St., Manchester, 627-7560. Open Tues., Thurs., and Fri., 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Sat., 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
• **OAXACA**, Mexico artist Este-

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ART

Transcending nature

Eric Aho exhibit shows move to abstraction

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

Currier Museum of Art curators Bruce McColl and Andrew Spahr have been closely watching Eric Aho's artistic development for the past 15 years, and especially the past five. Now, Aho's new exhibition at the Currier premieres his movement into abstraction.

Even visitors unfamiliar with abstract art can easily see the difference between the work in this exhibit (which will be available for viewing until Sept. 9) and his earlier work. Paintings from 2005, such as "French King," are literal representations — the smoky clouds, distant shadowy mountains, yellow and green pastures are clear and defined. In his later paintings, there is less definition. The dark embers and billowing smoke in 2009's "Red Winter" offer more expression and evoke more emotion than some of Aho's earlier works, McColl said.

"I realized after so many years of painting the landscape, I became distracted by the paint — it started doing something different than it used to. I began paying attention to what it looked like, and the abstraction became real," Aho said.

This change is normal for an artist, Aho said — this evolution caused him to paint differently, to look at landscapes as less defined, to let the paint work its magic.

"To my eyes, he's opened up his practice to invite accident, to invite meditation, and the work has become more abstract: he's no longer tied to the strictures of time, the way the light plays off the landscape, but rather, what does a painting look like shifting through the day? By allowing himself to experience the world in a more intuitive way, the paintings have become more intuitive," McColl said.

His pieces, when looked on by a New Englander, seem very familiar. Locals may identify with much of his work, even the landscapes that are not representations of the area. He was born in Massachusetts but grew up in Hudson, N.H., before he studied at MassArt in Boston. There he was trained on working from sight through an impressionist methodology, a "traditional grounding," McColl said. But he traveled and painted all over the world, from Ireland to Norway to his ancestral Finland and now Vermont. New Englanders will recognize the New England houses, the White Mountains, and traces of Hanover are recognizable in "Cathedral" from the top of a snowy mountain, looking down at the familiar, dark rushing winter waters of the Connecticut River.

Even the paintings created internationally have a New England charm about them.

"His paintings, I think, reflect on the region, not just pictorially, but just the way they're built. Obviously in subject matter, but they're all reflective of this region. If I were a viewer going in this show, I would see a lot of ghosts — his paintings speak to the larger traditions of New England, as the lighting in the paintings is a New England light, even the abstraction pieces," McColl said. "Even though he has traveled all over the world, the legacy of New England artists has somehow seeped into his veins, and his



"Daybreak," by Eric Aho.

paintings reflect this in a very profound and powerful way," McColl said.

Some paintings, such as "Wilderness," offer a mix of realism and abstraction. This painting was created in 2008, and it's evident through the sky crowded with light and dark clouds, the mountains dark in the distance, and the gently rolling topography on the top half of the painting that this is a landscape creation. However, toward the center of the painting, there is less clarity. Others, such as "Timberline" and "Nocturne East" are more expressionist, promoting a feeling rather than the literal recreation.

"There's more thickness, more layering — this painting shows Eric digging deeper into the painting, the idea," McColl said of "Wilderness." The result is lovely — the landscape is cluttered with colors and shapes, grays, blues, oranges and pinks.

"Although Eric Aho's mid-career work tends increasingly towards abstraction's formal concerns, the land remains his persistent subject," McColl wrote in the exhibit catalogue.

Aho has always been drawing — in high school, he considered becoming a medical artist. He's very knowledgeable about art history, but much of his training through college was in drawing. He didn't begin to paint until he was through with school and took a job as a painting instructor in Vermont. Needless to say, he never quite got into medical drawing. Aho has been showing in well-established galleries since the mid 1990s, and although he's a mid-career artist, he has gained a foothold on the national scale in the past few years.

"I hope to portray an emblematic view of a larger human experience. Not just mine — standing in front of the painting, I hope that viewers feel what it's like to be momentarily tethered to that place, to feel it in a new experience," Aho said. "To challenge sensations."

Art by Eric Aho

Where: Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester

When: The gallery is open daily, except Tuesday, and the exhibit is available for viewing until Sept. 9

Admission: \$10

ban Urbietta Moreno will present his new sea-inspired painted works at McLaughlin-Hills Gallery (110 State St., Portsmouth, 319-8306, mclaughlin-hillsgallery.com).

• **PAINTINGS**, drawings and monotypes by Joanne Boudreau and Ann-Marie LaBollita in the Art Corner at Peterborough Town Library, 2 Concord St., Peterborough, 924-8040.

• **PASTELS** by Nashua artist Pauline Dailey on display in the Image Gallery at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4610. Free.

• **“PORTRAITS OF PORTUGAL”** by the late David Schirmer on display in the Randall Gallery at the Athenaeum (6-8 Market Square, Portsmouth). Gallery hours are Tues., Thurs. and Sat., 1-4 p.m.

• **RYAN JOHN LEFEBVRE** will present his artwork at Number 27 Gallery at the Rochester Museum of Art (10 N. Main St., Rochester). Visit ryanjohnlefebvre.com.

• **TRANSFORMATION** Photographic work of David MacEachran and Alicia Bergeron on display at Silver Light Gallery, 28 Main St., Suite 2, Goffstown, 497-4674, silverhillstudio.com.

• **VINEYARD COMMUNITY CHURCH** (150 Dow St., Manchester, manchestervineyard.com) will present community artwork in its mill building to benefit Invisible Children. Call 624-4080.

THEATER LISTINGS

• **PINOCCHIO** at Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org) on Thurs., July 19, at 6:30 p.m. Tickets \$7.

• **ALICE IN WONDERLAND** at Palace Theatre (Manchester, palacetheatre.org) Tues., July 24, and Wed., July 25, at 10 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Tickets \$7.

• **THE GRIMM'S PROJECT** will be playing at Andy's Summer Playhouse (582 Isaac Frye Highway, Wilton, 654-2613, andysummerplayhouse.org) July 21-28 (excluding July 23 & 24). Directed by Jonathan Farmer.

• **RB PRODUCTIONS'** Summer Youth Theatre Series will continue with *Seussical, Jr.*, Fri., July 20, at 7 p.m. and Sat., July 21, at 2 p.m. at the Capitol Center for the Arts (44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com). Tickets are \$10.

• **THE 39 STEPS** is a fast-paced comedy whodunit running through Sun., July 29, presented by the Peterborough Players (55 Hadley Road, Peterborough, 924-7585, PeterboroughPlayers.org). Admission is \$37, \$39 on Saturdays. Play times are 8 p.m. Wed.-Sat.; 4 p.m. on Sun., and 7 p.m. Tues.

• **CHICAGO** at the Seacoast Repertory Theatre (125 Bow St., Portsmouth, seacoastrep.org) July 20-Aug. 26. Dark musical comedy. Tickets are \$20-\$42. Call 433-4472.

• **FANTASTICKS** Fri., July 20, at 7:30 p.m., and Sat., July 21, at 2 & 7:30 p.m. at Goffstown High School (27 Wallace Road, Goffstown), featuring members of the Goffstown High School Summer Musical Theatre. Tickets \$10 (\$7 for children and seniors).

• **SHAKESPEARE IN HOLLYWOOD** at Amato Center for the Performing Arts (56 Mont Vernon St., Route 13N, Milford) on the weekends of July 13-22, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. General admission \$12. Visit MilfordAreaPlayers.org or call 673-2259.

• **GREASE** performed by Teen Actorsingers on Fri., July 20, at 7:30 p.m., Sat., July 21, at 2 & 7:30 p.m., and Sun., July 22, at 2

On stage



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On stage



Master class for musicians

Folk singer and fiddler Lissa Scheckenburger (www.lissafiddle.com) will give a Craft Master Class on Thursday, July 19, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at Concord Community Music School (23 Wall St., Concord, 228-1196, ccmusicschool.org). This class is for musicians who are interested in becoming better performers, and is open to all instruments and music styles. Scheckenburger will look at what makes a good performance and how to improve your own, with exercises, examples and a chance to perform in front of the class, with group feedback. Students are asked to bring a recording device to each session and to come with a sheet of music prepared to play in class. Tuition is \$15.

p.m. at the Jan B. Streeter Theatre, 14 Court St., Nashua. Seats are reserved and tickets may be purchased online at actorsingers.org or by calling 320-1870. Admission \$15 (\$12 for students and seniors).

• **THE WINTER'S TALE** will premiere at New England College on Fri., July 20, and Sat., July 21, at 7:30 p.m., and Sun., July 22, at 3 p.m. Shows take place in the Mainstage Theatre, Science Building, 58 Depot Hill Road, Henniker. Tickets are \$12. Call 428-2382 or email nectheatre.edu.

• **BACK IN THE '80S...THE TOTALLY AWESOME MUSICAL** presented by Kids Coop Theatre on Fri., July 20, at 7 p.m. and Sat., July 21, at 1 & 7 p.m. at Memorial Opera House (29 E. Broadway, Derry, kidscoop-theatre.org). Tickets are \$15 (\$12 for seniors and students and for matinee shows).

• **DORKS IN DUNGEONS** show on Sundays, July 22-29, at 9 p.m. at the Players' Ring (105 Marcy St., Portsmouth). Dungeon Master B20 (Brian Kelly) will take his five players through an adventure in front of a live audience using the most recent edition of *Dungeons and Dragons*. Visit jetpackcomics.com or call 436-8123. Tickets are \$12.

• **GIVE AND TAKE** The Manchester High School West theater program will present a free performance of the show it will be performing in the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland, this summer, *Give and Take*, on Thurs., July 26, at 7 p.m. at the Robert A. Baines Auditorium, Manchester High School West (9 Notre Dame Ave., Manchester). Free. Call 582-1253.

• **MUSICALARTS** presents the Broadway musical *1776* coinciding with the American Independence Festival Fri., July 20, and Sat., July 21, at 8 p.m. and Sun., July 22, at 2

p.m. at Exeter Town Hall.

• **FIDDLER ON THE ROOF** presented by Leddy Center for the Performing Arts (38C Ladd's Lane, Epping, 679-2781, leddycenter.org) July 6-22 at its new theater at Verdant Pastures. Tickets are \$16-\$18.

• **CHEAP CABARETS** will be shown Tues., July 24, and Sun., Aug. 12, at 7:30 p.m. at Andy's Summer Playhouse (582 Isaac Frye Highway, Wilton, 654-2613, andysummerplayhouse.org). Staff, alumni, graduating kids and friends will perform whatever they've been working on.

• **THE PINOCCHIO SHOW** presented by Majestic Theatre at Stark Park (River Road, Manchester) Thurs., July 26, at 7 p.m. as part of the Friends of Stark Park Summer Series. Visit majestictheatre.net.

CLASSICAL LISTINGS

Concerts

• **SHAPING OUR HERITAGE** In conjunction with the “Shaping Our Heritage” exhibit at the NH State Library, free concerts will be performed at the Concord Community Music School: a performance of New England fiddling traditions on Sun., July 22, and a concert of Celtic music on Sun., July 29, both 2-4 p.m. Visit nh.gov/nharts.

• **EXETER PUBLIC LIBRARY SUMMER MUSIC SERIES** in the Bruce Sloan Reading Area at the library, 4 Chestnut St., Exeter. Call 772-3101. Local musicians will give free performances at the library in July and Aug., Tuesdays at 3 p.m. Regina Delaney will perform traditional harp music on July 24

• **BACH'S LUNCH CONCERT SERIES** Wednesdays at noon at Nashua Public Library (2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4610, nashualibrary.org) Andy Frankhouse Jazz Trio on July 25.



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Flagging down players

Manchester youth flag football league is open

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

When you love a sport, you want your kids to start young. But you don't want them to burn out early.

Kids are beginning tackle football as young as 7 years old, and many of them opt not to continue with the sport in elementary school because, let's face it, getting hit is not always fun. Add to this the long-term effects of too many years of football — concussions, stress, lasting injuries — and many players find that their football careers do not last as long as they originally anticipated.

So two Manchester dads, Chuck Vorias and Chris Morgan, decided to give kids (and parents) another option, a way to learn the game without getting mauled: flag football.

The idea came about while they were watching their kids play in a recreational indoor league in Bedford. They enjoyed playing here, Morgan said, and some of the kids who were old enough weren't yet ready to take on tackle football. Unfortunately, there were no flag football leagues that would enable the kids to continue the sport without joining a tackle football team.

"Pelham has a league, but other than that, there aren't many opportunities for non-contact football," Morgan said.

Vorias said his son isn't quite ready for tackle, either.

"I don't want my kids playing tackle right now, and they, too, want to keep playing without the tackling aspect," Vorias said, a father of three boys, ages 8, 6 and 4. "There are so many stories of kids who start at 7, play one game of tackle, and then want to stop," he said. He hopes that this opportunity allows more kids to develop an appreciation of the game.

Morgan Googled flag football and came across the USA Football NFL flag football league at nflflag.com. The site covers the league's rules, equipment, history, and teams.

Most of the rules of regular football apply to flag football; the positions, plays and concepts are the same. The biggest difference is simply that there is no tackling. To take down a player, you have to steal his bright Velcro hip flag.

Vorias and Morgan think that because it does not involve tackling, the program might also encourage more girls to try it out. They hope to eventually begin a girls league, if the interest is there.

Perhaps one of the coolest parts of this flag football league is that it is affiliated with the NFL, so its kids will receive an official NFL jersey and an official USA NFL membership upon registration. The group will be divided into teams, each of which will have an offi-



Chris Morgan (second from left) and Chuck Vorias (second from right) with flag football players. Courtesy photo.

cial NFL name, like "Cowboys" or "Patriots."

Practices and games will take place Sundays at 9 a.m., Aug. 5 through Oct. 7, at Smyth Road School field in Manchester. The season will end with a "Super Bowl" tournament on Sunday, Oct. 14. The league is for kids ages 5 through 12, but there are no geographic boundaries — all players, from anywhere, are welcome. Player fees are \$65 for the season.

Morgan and Vorias acknowledge that they are still in the beginning stages of this league, but they expect a lot of interest and that it will grow once word gets out. Right now, there will only be internal games, but if the interest is there, they will look to play other NFL flag football organizations all over New England.

They encourage parents to become involved, as well, to coach or just to support the teams. Register at manchesterflagfootball.com.

CHILDREN & TEENS

Events

• FREE SUMMER MUSIC SERIES

for children at UNH Manchester, in the third-floor auditorium at 400 Commercial St.; RSVP at manchester.unh.edu/events or 641-4167. "Frog Prince" is Thurs., July 19, 2-2:45 p.m. (pre-K to grade 4) and Thurs., Aug. 2, 10-10:45 a.m.; "Garage Band" is Fri., Aug. 10, 10-11 a.m.; and "Bubblegum Pop for Sweet Kids" is Fri., Aug. 17, 10-11 a.m.

• CARTOONING FOR KIDS

workshop at Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications (749 E. Industrial Park Drive, Manchester) on Sat., July 21, 9 a.m. to noon. For ages 15 and younger. Artist, illustrator, cartoonist and art instructor Ron Plante will offer tips and hands-on learning skills for creating cartoons or illustrations. Fee is \$30. Register at 627-0005 or loebsschool.org.

• **LEGO BLOCK PARTY** at Wadleigh Memorial Library (49 Nashua St., Milford, 673-2408, ref_desk@wadleighlibrary.org) on Mon., July 23, 5-8 p.m. in the children's room. Build a castle, a dog, bridge, etc. All ages.

• **PAJAMA PARTY** on Tues., July 24, at 6:30 p.m. at Concord Public Library (45 Green St., Concord, 230-3682, kgerber@concordnh.gov). Stories, craft, bedtime snack and story time. Bring stuffed animal friend to leave overnight, and the next morning see what kind of fun they had. Pajama-wearing is encouraged.

• **OWN THE NIGHT MANGA DRAWING WORKSHOP** at Derry Public Library (64 E. Broadway, Derry, 432-6140, derrypl.org) on Tues., July 24, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Local artist Kristine Brock will teach how to draw manga. Lesson will be centered on summer read theme, Own the Night. Beginner and experienced artists encouraged to attend. Call or go online to register.

• **LET'S MOVE AT THE NASHUA LIBRARY** (2 Court St., Nashua, 589-3475, nashualibrary.org) on Tues., July 24, at 6:30 p.m. Dance to the Sugar River String Band, work out with Junior Jazzercise, and build your confidence with the Independent Karate School. Plus a visit from Sparky the Fire Dog. Free.

• **LOCAL AUTHOR NIGHT** for youth authors/illustrators on Wed., July 25, 6:30-8 p.m. at the Chester Library (3 Chester St., Chester). Call 887-3404. Authors include Gardner M. Browning, Michelle McCorkle, Eric Pinder and Paula Casey Wood.

• **CRAFTERNOON** at the Concord Public Library (45 Green St., Concord, 230-3682, kgerber@concordnh.gov) on Thurs., July 26, at 3:30 p.m. Make camper and sleeping bag to sleep under the stars.

• **S'MORES SMORGASBORD** on Thurs., July 26, 6-7 p.m. at the Wadleigh Memorial Library (49 Nashua St., Milford, 673-2408, ref_desk@wadleighlibrary.org). Test out some gourmet s'mores recipes. For teens entering grades 6-12.

Nature

• **ADVENTURE PROGRAMS AT AMOSKEAG FISHWAYS**, 6 Fletcher St., Manchester, this summer take place July 31, Aug. 1, and Aug. 2, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Cost is \$8 per program, \$20 for all three days. Tues., July 31, is "Bugs! Everywhere Bugs!" Wed., Aug. 1, is "Wildlife in the City," and Thurs., Aug. 2, is "Adventures in the Woods." Visit amoskeagfishways.org or call 626-3474.

• **VOYAGER PROGRAMS** at Amoskeag Fishways (6 Fletcher St., Manchester) for ages 10-13, Aug. 6-10, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Enjoy a week of all-day outdoor adventures; Aug. 6 is "Let's Go Fishing," Aug. 7 is "Great Bay Day" at the

Sandy Point Discovery Center, Aug. 8 is "Rivers to the Sea," Aug. 9 is "Critter Quest," and Aug. 10 is "Learn to Paddle" on Newfound Lake. Cost is \$30 per session or \$140 for all five sessions. Pre-registration with payment required. Visit amoskeagfishways.org or call 626-3474.

• **CANOE TRIP** through Amoskeag Fishways (6 Fletcher St., Manchester) for ages 14-16 on Aug. 3. Spend the day fishing at local lakes and ponds. Cost is \$30. Pre-registration with payment required. Visit amoskeagfishways.org or call 626-3474.

• **FAMILY WISE TALKS** at the Seacoast Science Center (570 Ocean Blvd., Rye) on the third Saturday of the month, 2-3:30 p.m. "Mother West Wind" visits from the Green Meadows with stories about the creatures that live at Smiling Pond and Laughing Brook. Free with Admission. Visit seacoastsciencecenter.org/calendar or call 436-8043.

• **SATURDAY TREKS** at the Seacoast Science Center (570 Ocean Blvd., Rye) on the third Saturday of the month, 9 a.m. to noon. For children 4-7. Nature walk — bring camera. Cost is \$35 per child. Visit seacoastsciencecenter.org/calendar or call 436-8043.

Teen/tween events

• **ZOMBIE VS. UNICORN** at the Nashua Library (2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4610) on Tues., July 24, at 4 p.m. Physical challenges, brain-bending quizzes and trophies to the winning team. Register at tinyurl.com/nplteen.

• **PLAY DATE NH** invites youth 12-18 years to learn, play and enjoy new card, strategy and board games at area libraries. Semi-professional gaming geeks will be on hand to mentor new players in classic and modern games. See playdatenh.com. Game days are also hosted on the second Saturday of each month, noon

to 4 p.m., at Rodgers Memorial Library (194 Derry Road, Hudson, rodgerslibrary.org, 886-6030).

• **ANIME CLUB** for ages 12-18 at the Hollis Social Library on the last Monday of every month, 2:30-4:15 p.m.

• **ANIME CLUB** for ages 12-17 at Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, first Tuesday of every month at 4 p.m. Discuss anime or manga series, participate in games and activities, and display your anime sketches in the teen room. Call 589-4612 or visit tinyurl.com/nplteen.

• **ANIME CLUB** at Manchester City Library, 405 Pine St., Manchester. Meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Open to teens in grades 6-12. Play cards, watch movies, discuss favorite characters, and draw. Call Kate Norton at 624-6550, ext. 335, or e-mail knorton@manchester.nh.gov for details.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Workshops, seminars & events

• **MANCHESTER HARLEY-DAVIDSON MOBILE SERVICE OFFICE** will be at Manchester Harley-Davidson (115 John E. Devine Drive, Manchester) 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sat., July 21. Veterans can come for counseling and claim filling assistance. Call 222-5788.

• **MY HEALTHEVET OPEN HOUSE** on Tues., July 24, 8 a.m. to noon in the Training and Education Conference Room, 718 Smyth Road, Manchester. Veterans can receive information regarding the website and what is available to manage care received through the VA. Call 624-4366, ext. 2291. Free.

• **COOKING MATTERS FOR FAMILIES** is a free six-week cooking and nutrition series for school-aged children and families at the Upper Room (36 Tsienneto Road, Derry, 437-8477) Wednes-

Treasure hunt

An antiques expert helps you search for buried treasure

This week's column is about not just the antiques in our homes but what is around us outside as well. I want to share a fun story.

Recently while opening up our family summer cottage in upstate New York, Tom, my husband was busy working and mowing, while I was busy playing with the rocks. I started picking them up and thinking how old these must be and what kind of story they could tell about how they got here.

After one day looking around, I made a cute duck out of a couple rocks and then said it needed a friend, so I made another one. Tom at this point said, "It must be time to go home!" As usual I laughed but thought it's an amazing thing when you can change the purpose of almost anything around us.

Antiques are fun and an investment to collect, but sometimes even the simplest of things can be priceless and bring a smile to our face. These kinds of things are easy to find if you just look outside the normal everyday trendy things we decorate with now.

When we got ready to leave, I told Tom I was going to bring my two new friends back to New Hampshire with us, and he said, "No rock ducks going home." That didn't stop me from hiding them in a bag with towels. I think he should have figured out something when I said I would load the truck and unload it.



After getting home and confessing, I set them up outside the shop and started sharing the story with my friends and customers. These two rock ducks from New York have brought so much laughter and smiles that, no matter that they don't have any monetary value, they were worth the trip home. People have asked to purchase them for door stops etc., but I said no because they are just visiting from New York. I share this story with you to let you know again that no matter what you collect for antiques/collectibles it always will have a value to someone else at one time or another — even antique rocks!

Donna Welch has spent more than 20 years in the antiques and collectibles field and owns From Out Of The Woods Antique Center in Goffstown (www.fromoutofthewoodsantiques.com). She is an antiques appraiser, an instructor and a licensed auctioneer. To find out about your antique or collectible, send a clear photo of the object and information about it to Donna Welch, From Out Of The Woods Antique Center, 465 Mast Road, Goffstown, N.H., 03045. Or e-mail her at footwdw@aol.com. Or drop by the shop (call first, 624-8668).

days, through Aug. 15, 10 a.m.-noon. For those who qualify for supplemental nutrition assistance, free and reduced lunch; call 437-8477, ext. 22, to register or 679-5616 for more information.

• KEEP FIT WHILE YOU SIT: SPINAL STRETCHES FOR THE DESK WORKER with Dr. Sam Sanzone, D.C., chiropractor, on Tues., Aug. 14, 6:30-7:15 p.m., at Concord Food Co-op, Celery Stick Café, 24 St. Main St., Concord. Free event. Call 225-6840, e-mail classes@concordfoodcoop.coop to sign up.

MISCELLANEOUS

Bake/yard sales/fundraisers/auctions

• YARD SALE/BAKE SALE at East Congregational Church (51 Mountain Road, Concord) on Sat., July 21, 8 a.m. to noon, rain or shine (held indoors). Household items, furniture, toys, books, collectibles and more. Bag sale starts at 11 a.m. Homemade goodies available to purchase. Call 224-9242 or visit eastchurchucc.org.

Expos/festivals/fairs

• STRATHAM FAIR July 19-22 at Stratham Hill Park, Route 33, in Stratham features entertainment for all ages, 4-H activities and exhibits, rides, music, magic acts, arts and crafts, oxen pulling, a lobster festival, the Miss Stratham Fair pageant, and fireworks to end the weekend on Sunday night. Gates open at 8 a.m.

• HOOPLA FESTIVAL benefits the Seymour Osman Community

Center on Sat., July 21, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., at Woodman Park, Dover. Live music, DJs, 3-on-3 basketball tournament and back-to-school fashions will be featured at this family-friendly event. Free, but \$10 donations are encouraged. Email bc@peninkdesign.com. Registration required. Call or email library@amherst.lib.nh.us or visit amherst.lib.nh.us.

• AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE FESTIVAL is Sat., July 21, at the American Independence Museum (1 Governors Lane, Exeter) and Swasey Parkway. This year there is a Maritime theme. The gundalow will return, and Jeff Warner will sing sea chanteys and folk songs. Redhook Brewery will provide a beer tent with American Independence Ale. There will be artisans, vendors, jewelry, face painting, and music — Rhythm Method will play before the fireworks finale. Visit independence-museum.org.

• GREEK FESTIVAL at the Taxiarchai Greek Orthodox Church (at the corner of N. Main and Oak St., Laconia) on Sat., July 28.

• CANTERBURY FAIR this year will be Sat., July 28, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Canterbury town center (Exit 17 off Interstate 93). Music, crafts, entertainment, dancing and more. Admission is free, and parking is \$5 per car. Visit canterbury-fair.com.

Other

• VETERANS BOSCAWEN MEMORIAL 9-year anniversary is Sat., July 27, at 1:30 p.m. All

are invited to attend to honor those who gave it all in Vietnam and remember POW/MIAs. The event will take place at the New Hampshire Veterans Cemetery.

• MISS ROCKINGHAM COUNTY seeks contestants for pageant at Windham High School on Aug. 4. Application deadline is Fri., July 27. Winner goes on to Miss New Hampshire Scholarship Pageant on April 27, 2013, to compete. Email missrockinghamcounty@aol.com or visit missnh.com. Call 892-0078.

MUSEUMS & TOURS

History & museum events

• ANTIQUES APPRAISAL on Tues., July 17, 5-7 p.m. at the Laconia Antiques Center, 601 Main St., in downtown Laconia. Appraisers Doug McGowan, Linc Fourier and Bruce Baier will be available to offer verbal estimations of value. Cost is \$5 per item to be appraised. Proceeds benefit Laconia Historical & Museum Society. Call 527-1278 or email lhmlpl@metrocast.net.

• GENERAL JOHN STARK CONVERSATION on Mon., July 23, at 7 p.m. A conversation about John Stark at the Hillsborough Heritage Museum, 5 Central St., Hillsborough. Professors Benjamin and Jane Hampton and Don Hayles will present, in character, a discussion about Stark. Free. Call 464-2592.

Continued on Page 33

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THE PLAYGROUND

Play like a kid again

Parents have a ball at Mel's Funway Park

By Rebecca Sherman
listings@hippopress.com

They tumbled out of the Laser Tag room, their faces flushed with excitement, talking in a rush about that “great hit” and comparing the scores on the backs of their phasers. One man turned to the boy next to him and gave him a high-five, saying, “Great shot, you got Mom!” His son grinned, saying, “Yeah, Dad, then she turned around and got you!”

On a recent afternoon spent at Mel's Funway Park in Litchfield, I kept running into groups like the one described above — adults at play like kids, many of them parents playing with their kids.

As parents, we've all encountered those moments when we try to engage in a game with our kids that just doesn't appeal to us, and we hang in there because we want to do *something* fun with them. Finding activities that will appeal to all ages can be tricky.

While not every attraction will be everyone's cup of tea, there are plenty of options. We went on a Saturday afternoon because I had bought a couple FunPack passes for my son and his friend on a Groupon deal. I was an observer that day, not a player, though I began to wish I had bought myself a pass.

Upon our arrival, my son and his friend made a beeline for Laser Tag. The other people going in for battle at the same time were a family of four — mom, dad and two teenage sons — who instantly became their “foes.” After the 10-minute game, everyone came out laughing and joking and bragging about their Laser Tag prowess. Michael Accomando, one of the owners of Mel's, understands the game's appeal. He said when he and his business partner first put in Laser Tag, they often played until 3 a.m., “having the time of our lives.” He said he sees adults come out from playing, “smiling and sweatier than the kids.”

At Mel's, all-day passes can be purchased for \$45 for unlimited activities, or visitors can buy a \$25 FunPack with no expiration date, good for one go-kart ride, one round of mini golf, one small bucket of balls for the driving range, one game of Laser Tag, one game of Laser Maze and six batting cage tokens.

There are individual prices per attraction available, too. For example, Laser Tag costs \$5 per game per person, or \$10 for three games.

After watching other players' progress in the Laser Maze on the TV screen located outside the room, my son and his friend had to try it. To understand what the Laser Maze is like, Accomando suggested thinking of the movie *Mission Impossible* and the scene in which Tom Cruise has to make it through a room laced with laser beams, which when triggered would set off an alarm. Players enter the Laser Maze and are timed, as they try to go over or under the laser beams. Accomando said he once witnessed a seven-year-old boy make it through the maze in seven seconds. You quickly realize that is quite a feat, once you see the average times.

“He was so small and so thin,” Accomando said, “once he got in the maze, he immediately dropped to the floor and snake- and



Parents and kids can enjoy the go-karts at Mel's Funway Park in Litchfield. Courtesy photo.

army-crawled from one end to the other.” As the boy came out, Accomando said, “The whole room got completely quiet.” He said that when bigger people tried the same technique, they just couldn't do it. The Laser Maze costs \$2 per person for one game, or \$5 for three games.

Mel's also offers two 18-hole mini-golf courses. Accomando said that while both have challenging holes, the front course, called the Granite, tends to be more difficult than the back course. The Granite has a granite hole, a smooth slab of granite with the hole in the middle, which Accomando said, “Is a pretty difficult shot to make.” The back course, called the Lighthouse, gets its name because one of the holes is played within a small lighthouse.

Accomando said the owners are proud of the batting cages at Mel's, which he called “one of a kind.” He said most facilities have a net so low that when you hit a ball, it drops right down and you never really get a real feel for hitting, whereas Mel's batting cage setup allows people to feel the “smack” of the ball as it they hit it. People “get a kick out of how the backdrop is a replica of the Green Monster,” he said.

Accomando said the go-kart track brings adults and kids together for fun; he enjoys watching kids return and try to pick out the same car they had last time, because they remember it as the “fastest one.” What they don't realize is that the cars get worked on at different times during the week, Accomando said, so the one that was fast last weekend might not be as fast as the one that had new tires put on and its oil changed yesterday. The go-karts can reach speeds of 18 to 22 mph, he said. There are ride requirements for both age and size, emphasizing safety first.

Mel's has a driving range, an arcade, and Woodman's Restaurant. Accomando said the idea at Mel's is “to help people remember what it's like to carve out some time to let go and have fun, like when they were younger.” I definitely felt that vibe, because while I didn't buy a ticket for the attractions the day we visited, I couldn't refuse a dish of ice cream — with M&M's on it. After all, I'm really just a kid at heart.

Mel's Funway Park

454 Charles Bancroft Highway (Route 3A),
Litchfield, 424-2292, www.melsfunwaypark.com

Summer hours: 10 a.m.-11 p.m. daily,
weather permitting

Kiddie Pool

Family fun this weekend

Books!

• On Wednesday, July 25, Grammy-nominated performance artist **Judy Pancoast** will perform some of her original works at Griffin Library (22 Hooksett Road, Auburn) to promote the summer reading program. All ages are welcome. Call 483-5374.

• Wednesday, July 25, is **Local Author Night** at Chester Library (3 Chester St., junction of routes 121 and 102, Chester), and local authors of books for the younger set will visit from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Authors include Gardner M. Browning, Michelle McCorkle, Eric Pinder and Paula Casey Wood. They will show and sign their work. Call 887-3404.

Puppets and parties

• See Dan Grady and his **Marvelous Marionettes** on Thursday, July 19, from 6 to

7:30 p.m. on the Manchester City Library lawn (405 Pine St., Manchester). This fast-paced, stringed puppet production features tightrope and trapeze artistry performed by Eadarg Bros. Call 624-6550, ext. 311.

• Build your Lego dream creation at the **Lego Block Party** at Wadleigh Memorial Library (49 Nashua St., Milford, 673-2408, ref desk@wadleighlibrary.org) on Monday, July 23, from 5 to 8 p.m. in the children's room. Build a castle, a dog, bridge, etc. For all ages.

A weekend of fairs

• Celebrate America's independence at the **American Independence Festival** on Saturday, July 21, at the American Independence Museum (1 Governors Lane, Exeter) and at Swasey Parkway. This year there is a maritime theme.

The gundalow will return, and Jeff Warner will sing sea chanteys and folk songs. For the grownups, Redhook Brewery will provide a beer tent selling American Independence Ale. For all ages, there will be artisans, vendors, jewelry, face painting, and music — Rhythm Method will play before the fireworks finale. Visit independencemuseum.org.

• And finally, the **Hoopla Festival** is also this weekend, benefitting the Seymour Osman Community Center on Saturday, July 21, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., at Woodman Park in Dover. There will be live music, DJs, a 3-on-3 basketball tournament and back-to-school fashions featured at this family-friendly event. Admission is free, but \$10 donations are encouraged. Email bc@pen-inkdesign.com.

Tours

• **CLYDESDALE CAMERA DAY** at Anheuser-Busch (221 DW Hwy., Merrimack, 595-1202, budweisertours.com) on the first Saturday of every month from 1 to 3 p.m. Bring a camera and pose for a photo with a world-famous Budweiser Clydesdale.

• **EDUCATIONAL FARM AT JOPPA HILL** (174 Joppa Hill Road, 472-4724, Bedford) is a nonprofit organization operated exclusively for the charitable and educational purposes of increasing public awareness of sustainable agriculture. Farm tours are given daily to children and adults. Classes in sustainable organic agriculture and horsemanship lessons are available.

• **SEGWAY TOURS** Segway of Manchester, 42 Hanover St., Manchester, 218-8150, offers a variety of tours on a Segway PT. Currently all standard tours are offered at two tickets for \$99. Or choose the \$99 Ghost Hunting Tour, the \$79 Cemetery Tour or the \$69 Ghost Tour. Some tours are offered daily at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. this fall. E-mail info@SegwayofManchester.com or call 218-8150.

NATURE & GARDENING

• **Amoskeag Fishways**
6 Fletcher St., Manchester,
626-FISH, amoskeagfishways.org
• **Beaver Brook Association**
117 Ridge Road, Hollis,
465-7787, beaverbrook.org,
• **Charmingfare Farm**
Route 27, Candia, 483-5623,
visitthefarm.com
• **McAuliffe-Shepard**
Discovery Center
2 Institute Drive, Concord,
271-STAR, starhop.com
• **Educational Farm**
at Joppa Hill
174 Joppa Hill Road, Bedford,

In the spotlight



Hot air in Hillsborough

The annual Hillsborough Balloon Festival isn't just about balloons — it's also got an artists' fair and a parade with floats, marching bands, military personnel and lots of fire trucks, among other things — but let's face it, the hot air balloons are the star attraction. Take a tethered ride (about 50 feet up for a few minutes) for \$15 or a soaring flight over the Monadnock region for \$200 per passenger (most balloons can carry three to five passengers). The carnival opens Thursday, July 19, at 6 p.m. and closes at 10 p.m.; purchase a ride bracelet for \$15. On Friday, July 20, the carnival is open from 5 to 11 p.m. (ride bracelets \$20), a road race starts at 6:30 p.m., balloon lift off is at 6 p.m. weather permitting, and balloon night glow (they stay grounded but they look awesome) starts at 8 p.m. Live music is ongoing and there's always fair fare to buy, such as fried dough, cotton candy, hamburgers and sno-cones. On Sunday, July 21, balloon liftoffs are at 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., a pancake breakfast (\$5) is served from 6 to 8 a.m., the artisans fair opens at 10 a.m., the carnival opens at noon, a rock crawl starts at 11 a.m. (register at 10 a.m., \$5), a remote-controlled balloon demo happens at 7 p.m. and fireworks go off at 10 p.m. On Sunday, July 22, balloon liftoffs are at 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., another pancake breakfast is served, the parade goes at noon, there's a car show at 1 p.m. on the ball field and a magic show at 2 p.m. on the stage, and the whole thing comes to a close at 8 p.m. Festival admission is free; parking is \$5 per vehicle. Some events do have small fees. No animals are allowed on the field. See a detailed schedule and learn all about the balloons at balloonfestival.org. Photo courtesy of Karen Booth.

472-4724, theeducationalfarm.org
• **Friends of Stark Park**
North River Road, Manchester,
645-6700, friendsofstarkpark.org
• **Londonderry Trailways**

PO Box 389, Londonderry,
londonderrytrails.org

Continued on Page 36

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It's best to shield cars from sun, if possible



Dear Tom and Ray:

My husband and I recently purchased a hacienda in Tucson, Ariz., where we just arrived for the summer and will be spending all our future summers. At present, my beloved 1986 Buick Skylark, painted in John Deere green, is sitting in a fully exposed driveway with only the shade of a small cactus to protect it from the blazing sun. My German mother, whose advice I always follow, has suggested that we purchase a small gazebo to shade my Buick. My British husband, who has only just arrived in the states this January, has wondered whether a better course of action would be to get a "reflective cover thingy" (his words). His frugality here may be the result of the fact that the Buick broke down on the way to our wedding, and he thinks it is on its last legs. Bottom line: gazebo, "reflective cover thingy" or status quo? — Elizabeth

TOM: Or maybe your mother's just try-

ing to get your husband to spend money because she's still miffed about the Treaty of Versailles?

RAY: Sun is hard on the car's paint, and on its interior -- which can crack from the heat and the sun. If both exterior and interior are in good shape (which, frankly, I doubt, given that it's a 1986 Buick), then the best thing would be to put up some sort of sun-covering structure. That's probably what your mom means by a "gazebo." And a permanent structure is best.

TOM: But you can start with a temporary canopy. It can be as simple as four well-secured poles with a large tarp stretched between them. Or you can buy a temporary carport built just for that purpose. A lot of places sell tentlike structures specifically designed to protect a car from sun and rain — either just on top, or on the sides, too.

RAY: My second choice would be two window shades — one for the front windshield, and one for the rear. That will at least protect the interior and dashboard from some of the direct sun. Even better, combine those with tinted windows.

TOM: I'm not a big fan of car covers (or "reflective cover thingies") for cars that you drive every day, only because they're a mild pain in the butt to take on and off. And chances are, after a while, you'll just stop using it.

RAY: A permanent carport definitely is the best solution, Elizabeth. But I'd actually

recommend that you start with something temporary. Why? Because Tucson's a beautiful place, but after you spend a furnacelike summer there, you might change your mind about the "and all future summers" part. So you may not want to spend the money on a full-scale construction project until you're sure you're going to return year after year, rather than flee and spend your summers in Juneau, Alaska.

TOM: But if you do go for the temporary carport, be sure to write your name and address on it, so when it blows away in one of Tucson's summer monsoons, your neighbors can return it. Good luck, you guys.

I am a rural mail carrier and have a question about engine coolants. As a mail carrier, I spend a tremendous amount of time on hot asphalt at very slow speeds, and often sitting still. Are there any engine coolants that are capable of making an engine run cooler? My engine runs a little hotter than I am comfortable with. It doesn't overheat, but it reaches higher temps than it does when traveling down the road at 55 mph. If no such coolant exists, are there any "tricks" that could be applied to get the desired result? — Josh

TOM: There's really nothing you can put in there to make it run cooler, Josh -- unless you want to pack the radiator with blocks of dry ice.

RAY: It's more likely that your radiator has seen better days. So the first thing I'd suggest

is having your radiator inspected and flow-tested. Make sure it's not corroded and that you're moving plenty of coolant through it.

TOM: You can have someone check your thermostat, too, to make sure it's opening correctly and isn't sticking. A sticky thermostat can make a car run hot in stop-and-go driving. So can a non-functioning cooling fan.

RAY: If all of that stuff checks out OK, your one other option is to install an auxiliary cooling fan.

TOM: Basically, that's an extra electric fan that mounts on the front side of the radiator (your regular cooling fan is on the back side). An auxiliary fan will give you a little extra cooling in stop-and-go driving, which is where you need it.

RAY: But other than that, there's no magic potion, Josh. Except maybe the acid bath they're going to use to clean out your corroded radiator. Good luck.

What is the most cost-effective way to buy a car? Tom and Ray hash it all out in their pamphlet "Should I Buy, Lease, or Steal My Next Car?" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Next Car, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

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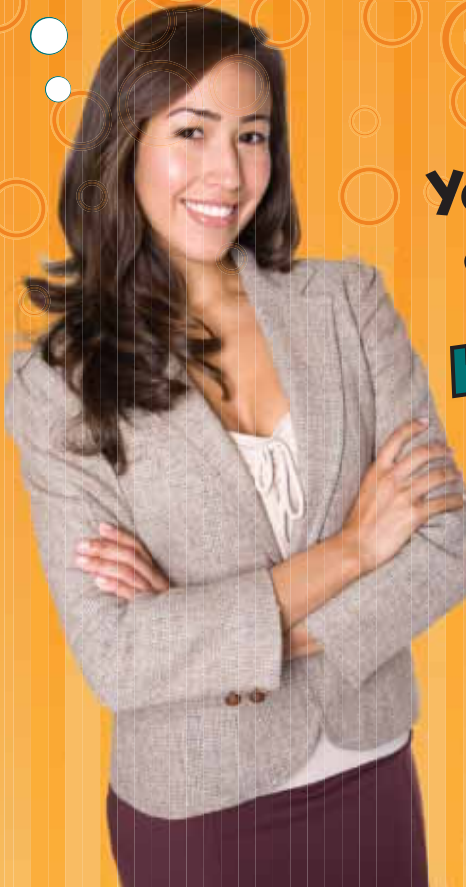
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- **Massabesic Audubon Center**
26 Audubon Way, Auburn, 668-2045, nhudubon.org
- **McLane Center**
84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, 224-9909, nhudubon.org
- **Peabody Mill Environmental Center**
66 Brook Rd, Amherst, 673-1141, pmec.org
- **Seacoast Science Center**
570 Ocean Blvd., Rye, 436-8043, seacoastsciencecenter.org
- **Society for the Protection of NH Forests**
224-9945, spnhf.org

Gardening/farming

- **OPEN HOUSE AND GARDEN PARTY** on Sat., July 21, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Uncanoonuc Mt. Perennials (452 Mountain Road, Goffstown, 497-3975, 497-5774, uncanoonucmt.com). More than 60 varieties of day lilies in full bloom with 900 types of hardy perennials, roses, ornamental grasses, berry bushes and more. Free.
- **GARDEN CONSERVANCY OPEN DAY PROGRAM** enables viewers to explore five private gardens in Canterbury, Chichester, Goffstown, Londonderry and Windham, Sat.-Sun., July 21-22, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$5 per garden, free for children younger than 12. Visit opendaysprogram.org or call 1-888-842-2442.
- **GARDEN PARTY** on Sat., July 21, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Marion Miles Remick Memorial Garden at Remick Country Doctor Museum and Farm (58 Cleveland Hill Road, 323-7591). Refreshments, seasonal garden crafts and farm stand to be open. Cost is \$12. 968-7194.

Outdoors

- **THE HAND OF MAN 2012** on Thurs., July 19, at 7:30 p.m. is part of the Summer 2012 Nature Talk Series at the Loon Center (183 Lees Mill Road, Moultonborough, 476-5666). Arabella Dane will present. Free.
- **MERRIMACK RIVER PADDLE** with AMC NH Paddlers on Sat., July 21, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. hosted by Amoskeag Fishways (6 Fletcher St., Manchester, 626-3474). Day of paddling on the Merrimack River. Bring own life jacket. Registration required. Call or visit amoskeagfishways.org.
- **LOON CRUISE** Fri., July 20, 3-4:30 p.m., at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center (23 Science Center Road, Holderness, nhnature.org, 968-7194, ext. 34). Cruises focus on common loon conservation, biology and monitoring. Each cruise, Science Center naturalist will be joined by LPC (Loon Preservation Committee) biologist who guides tour and discusses the work LPC is doing across the state and on Squam Lake to protect loons. Registration required. Email info@nhnature.org or call. Cost is \$23 for adults, \$19 for youth.
- **BOATING EDUCATION** classes through the state's Department of Safety. Full-day Saturday classes and two-day weeknight classes are available at locations around the state through the fall. Classes cost \$30. Call 267-7256 or see nhboatingeducation.com for times and locations.
- **GPS RENTALS** every Saturday and Sunday, from noon to 4 p.m.,

In the spotlight



Market Days 2012

The 38th annual Concord Market Days are Thursday, July 19, through Saturday, July 21, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day. On those days, downtown Concord will be bustling with four live musical performance areas; a local food, craft, beer and wine tent; dance, karate, zumba and gymnastics demonstrations; a fire truck pull, a classic car show, a motorcycle show, and food — lots and lots of food. And Market Days provide a great chance to shop local, both indoors and outdoors, as many vendors offer special deals.

The schedule is subject to change, so check intownconcord.org for the very latest, but here are some highlights as scheduled at press time:

Thursday, July 19

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.: NH Audubon bird show on the Statehouse lawn

Noon: Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki (fiddler) in the local tent

1 p.m.: puppet show on the Statehouse lawn

3 p.m.: hot wing eating contest in Eagle Square

5 p.m.: Freese Brothers Band and Let's Dance Studio on the Statehouse lawn

6 p.m.: George Brown Band in Bicentennial Square

Friday, July 20

10-11 a.m.: laughter yoga on the Statehouse lawn

11 a.m.: live music in Bicentennial Square

Noon: Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki in the local tent

1 p.m.: Judy Pancoast on the Statehouse lawn

1 p.m.: ice cream eating contest in Bicentennial Square

2 p.m. Rock out to the '80s in Eagle Square

3 p.m.: hot dog eating contest in Eagle Square

5 p.m.: Diamond Joe in Bicentennial Square

5-8 p.m.: family scavenger hunt on the Statehouse lawn

5-8 p.m.: classic car show on Pleasant Street

6 p.m.: local band Day Janeiro in Eagle Square

Dusk: *Rear Window* (PG) on South Main Street

Saturday, July 21

10 a.m. fire truck pull at Pleasant and Main streets

10 a.m. laughter yoga on the Statehouse lawn

11:30 a.m. parachute games on the Statehouse lawn

Noon: Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki in the local tent

1 p.m. Badgeball, police vs. fire dept., at Pleasant and Main

2 p.m. Brasbe in Bicentennial Square

3 p.m. pie-eating contest in Eagle Square

3 p.m. Zumba at Pleasant and Main

4-8 p.m. brewery sampling in the local tent

5:30 p.m. recycled fashion show at Pleasant and Main

6 p.m. local band Take 4 in Eagle Square

8:30 p.m. Darlingside in Bicentennial Square

In addition to specific events, there will be lots of ongoing activities, such as face painting, hula hoop demonstrations, arts & crafts tables, and the Concord Arts Market, as well as many other musical performances. The SPCA will have water and treats for dogs, and the Concord YMCA will have shaded seating and free water on the Statehouse lawn. There's no charge to wander around and soak up all the excitement and music, but bring money for food or shopping.

at Peabody Mill Environmental Center in Amherst. Cost is \$10.

- **MANCHESTER CEDAR SWAMP** conservatory area on Hackett Hill Road in Manchester offers a 602-acre ecological preserve with established trails. Follow Hackett Hill Road to Country-side Boulevard and watch for the trailhead.

- **MCLANE CENTER** (84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, 224-9909, newhampshireaudubon.org) offers trails for hiking and searching out wildlife.

- **WHITE PARK POND** (Washington and White streets in Concord, onconcord.com/recre) offers a tree trail — see map online.

Photography

- **MASSABESIC AUDUBON CENTER** (26 Audubon Way, Auburn, 668-2045, nhadubon.org) occasionally offers classes on nature photography and nature writing.

- **OUTDOOR DIGITAL PHOTO CLASSES** at Silver Hills Studio from 9 a.m. to noon on the second Saturday of every month. Learn to take quality photographs with a digital camera through classroom introduction and 2 hours of hands-on shooting in the natural landscape followed by constructive critique. Cost is \$25. To sign up, visit silverhillsstudio.com or call 497-4674.

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Servings: 6

Ingredients:

- 1 medium cucumber, peeled, seeded, and finely chopped
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 2 medium red and/or green bell peppers, finely chopped
- 1 cup water
- 1/4 cup red wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 1/2 cups Ragu® Old World Style® Traditional Pasta Sauce
- 1 tablespoon fresh cilantro, chopped
- 2 teaspoons McCormick® Poultry Seasoning
- 1/2 teaspoon hot pepper sauce, or more to taste

Directions:

1. Combine all ingredients in large nonaluminum bowl. Season, if desired, with salt and ground black pepper.
2. Process 1 cup of mixture in blender until smooth; pour back into soup and stir.
3. Cover and refrigerate at least 1 hour.

Recipe courtesy of Ragu.com.

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GARDENING GUY

A midsummer day's work

Easy tasks in the flower garden

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

I love George Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, particularly that song about summertime, when the living is allegedly easy. Fish are jumpin' and the cotton is high, and all that. Well, it's mid-summer and the gardening is just as busy as ever, the weeds are high and who has time for fishing? But I'm not complaining. I love the garden, and the weeds give me an excuse to avoid cleaning the basement. Here are some of the mid-summer tasks I've been working on.

Watering: Pots and planters need daily attention. I poke a finger in pots to verify that the soil mix is still lightly moist. I bought a hanging basket full of supertunias at a fundraiser, and it needs watering every day. The basket is filled with a peat-based potting mix, which loses moisture fast. So the leaves shrivel and it looks awful by the end of the day unless I water daily. I give it some liquid fish fertilizer a couple of times a week, as the potting mix is devoid of much in the way of minerals.

New plantings in the ground that are still establishing themselves also need water every day or two, depending on the weather. But mature flowers rarely need watering if they are planted in the right place. I only water if they go limp.

Cutting back, pruning: Now is the time to cut off spent flowers. This has been a splendid year for roses, perhaps to compensate for the poor lilac show. Some roses re-bloom, some do not, but cleaning off the dead flowers will improve the looks of the plant. Cut back not just the dead blossom, but all the way back to the next stem that has five leaves.

Other plants, such as peonies, will look better if you cut off the spent flowers, and some (such as and perennial bachelor buttons) will re-bloom. Cut off the flowers and stems of delphinium right to the ground after blooming is done, scratch in some fertilizer, and you should get another stem with blossoms in the fall.

Spring and early-summer blooming shrubs need to have their blossoms cut off now. I recently have worked on forsythia, common ninebark, lilac and spirea. If you cut these back in the fall, you will lose blossoms. Forsythia and ninebark can really grow fast, up to 3 to 4 feet in a season if you let them go at their natural pace, so cut them back before they are totally unmanageable.

Weeding: Weeds, those sneaky rascals, get discouraged if you keep pulling them out. But left alone now, midsummer? They grow like crazy. Grasses are trying to sneak in to the garden, too. Keep the grasses at bay by digging a trench at the edge of the lawn. Use a shovel or an edging tool to dig a 4-inch-deep, V-shaped trench between the lawn and garden beds. Grasses grow to the edge of the trench and don't know if it is the Grand Canyon or something smaller, so they stay back.

If you see weeds blooming, stop whatever you are doing and pull the weeds. Or, as the Red Queen would say, "Off with their



Deadheading roses. Henry Homeyer photo.

heads!' Snip off the weed flowers before they can set seeds and sprinkle them into your soil. Then deal with the weed when you have time. Don't throw weeds with flowers into the compost. Some (most?) can morph from flower to seed even after being pulled, and those weed seeds in the compost can come back to trouble you later.

Use a good weeding tool when you weed, so that you can get all (or most of) the roots of weeds and grasses. You probably know that my favorite is the CobraHead weeder (www.CobraHead.com). I like the fact that it is so easy to get its single tine under a weed, loosening the soil so that when I tug the weed, it comes out, roots and all.

Mulching: Mulching really reduces weed problems if you weed carefully and then apply mulch. What to use for mulch? That depends on your budget and your aesthetic sense. Most gardeners use bark mulch of some sort, though many use "color enhanced" wood-based mulch. Not me. I am skeptical of what companies use to enhance the color of their mulch, so I only buy natural, organic mulch.

I also like to use chopped leaves as mulch. Leaves are fantastic sources of organic matter and nutrients that microorganisms can break down and share with our plants. Pine needles, too, are excellent mulch. I know that many gardeners think that pine needles are too acidic to use, but I have never had a problem with them.

Last but not least, this is the time to plant some new **daylilies**. These are workhorses in the garden. Bugs don't eat them and they don't get mildew or blight. They come in different colors, blossom shape and bloom time. Go to a family-owned garden center or nursery to see what's in bloom. You just might be amazed.

Henry Homeyer can be reached at P. O. Box 364, Cornish Flat, NH 037476 or by e-mail him at henry.homeyer@comcast.net. His website is www.Gardening-Guy.com; you can find his past articles there (including the one you missed because someone wrapped up the fish remains in it).



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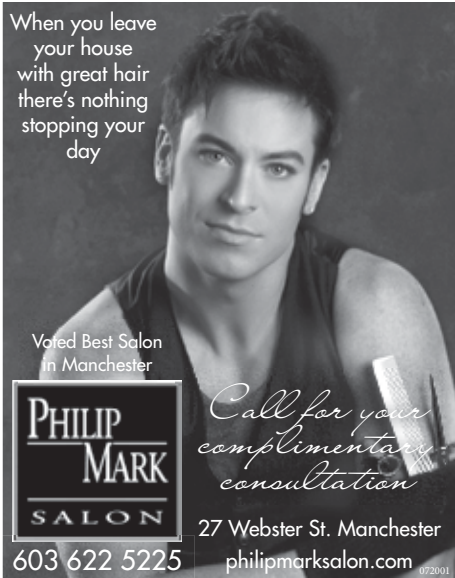
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Tech toys for cheap

Some great gadgets for under \$50

By John Andrews
jandrews@hippopress.com



If there's one fairly immutable rule of consumer electronics, it's this: stuff gets cheaper over time. Last year's hot game console will cost less now, either because there's a new one out or because they've learned how to make the same parts for less. It can be frustrating knowing that your purchases won't hold much value after a couple years, but it also means you can get some great stuff for very little money.

• **64GB USB flash drives:** In April of 2006, I wrote about brand new 64GB USB flash drives just coming on the market. At the time, 64GB was twice the size of my laptop hard drive; now my 500GB drive seems small. But 64GB on a single USB drive is still a fair amount, and it's come down a lot in price. In 2006, the cheapest 64GB model was priced at \$2,800. Today, a quick Internet search turns up several models around \$40 — and they're the cool slidey kind where the USB plug pops out, no cap to lose. I even got an e-mail showcasing a 32GB model on sale for \$13.99. Praise be to constantly improving memory manufacturing methods.

• **Android tablets:** Not top-of-the-line Android tablets by any means, but Android tablets nonetheless. Generic drug store tablets have been hovering at around \$99 for a while (\$89 on sale), and some of those are now starting to hit the closeout scene. In particular, refurbished Velocity Micro, Maylong, and Pandigital tablets with 7-inch screens show up for \$49.99 regularly. And last week, retail store Big Lots briefly had two different 7-inch tablets available for

\$19.99 each. At \$99, the slow, buggy tablets were a disappointment; at \$20, complaining would put you thoroughly in the realm of #firstworldproblems.

• **E-readers:** If full-blown tablets aren't your thing, maybe you prefer the paper-like display of an e-reader. If you want it cheap, Pandigital again has you covered. Any day of the week, a refurbished Pandigital Novel 6-inch e-reader will run you only \$24.99 at online clearance site BensOutlet.com. In some ways it compares quite well with a Kindle or Nook — 2GB internal memory plus an expansion slot, high contrast touchscreen, Wi-Fi — but it only gives you a few hours of battery life and page turns aren't as speedy as on a name-brand reader. Load up some free classic books and enjoy the stinginess.

• **Digital cameras:** Again, you are absolutely not getting the cream of the crop for less than 50 bucks, but you can get something decent that you can hand to a kid or take on an impromptu camping trip without clutching your wallet in pain. A few models of Vivitar camera give you 10+ megapixels for about \$40, though be prepared for sluggish shutters and shakey pictures if you don't use the flash. Hunt around a little more and you'll find Kodak EasyShare models slipping in right under the \$50 mark, usually refurbished. These offer optical zoom lenses and slightly snappier performance.

Then again, if you're truly looking for a camera for a young child, there's the Fisher-Price Kid-Tough for \$35 at Amazon or the Vtech Kidizoom for \$29. Neither take stellar pictures, but they do take a (mild) beating. And that's priceless.

It's still completely free (if you already own a device with Internet access, anyway) to follow @CitizenjaQ on Twitter.

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- **BARNES & NOBLE** 235 DW Highway, 888-0533.
- **CARRIAGE HOUSE** 230 Route 13, Brookline, 769-6004, carriagehousecoffee.com. Free.
- **CASTRO'S BACK ROOM** 182 Main St., 881-7703. Free.
- **COUNTRY TAVERN** 452 Amherst St., 889-5871, countrytavern.org. Free.
- **CASSIDY'S GRILLE AND COFFEE HOUSE** 25 Route 101A, Amherst. Free.
- **FAT DADDY'S COFFEE CAFE**, 650 Amherst St. (Greystone Plaza), 821-5136. Free.
- **MARTHA'S EXCHANGE** 185 Main St., 883-8781. Free.
- **MERRIMACK PUBLIC LIBRARY** 470 DW Highway Merrimack, 424-5021. Free
- **NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY**, 2 Court St., nashualibrary.org/WiFi_FAQ.htm. Free.
- **NASHUA WIFI PROJECT** Main Street. Free.
- **NATHANIEL'S** 537 Amherst St. Free.

- **PANERA BREAD** 8 Spit Brook Road, 891-2133; 590 Amherst St., 821-6021, panerabread.com. Free.
- **THE PEDDLER'S DAUGHTER** 48 Main St., 821-7535
- **RODGERS MEMORIAL LIBRARY**, 194 Derry Road, Hudson 886-6030, rodgerslibrary.org
- **SHORTY'S**, Nashua Mall, 882-4070, shortysmex.com. Free.
- **SKY MARKET** 383 E. Dunstable Road, 888-7400. Free.

MANCHESTER

- **900 DEGREES** 50 Dow St., 641-0900.
- **AIRPORT DINER** 2280 Brown Ave., 623-5040.
- **ARCADYA SALON & SPA** 989 Cilley Road, 644-1355, ArcadyaSalon.com.
- **BAJA'S CANTINA** 999 Elm St., 625-2252.
- **BILLY'S SPORTS BAR & GRILL** 34 Tarrytown Road, 622-3644, billyssportsbar.com.
- **BROTHERS RESTAURANT & LOUNGE** 6 Willow St., 668-7333.
- **DERRYFIELD COUNTRY CLUB** 625 Mammoth Road, 669-0235. Free.

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- **HOOKSETT PUBLIC LIBRARY** 1701B Hooksett Road, 485-6092. Free.
- **JILLIAN'S** 50 Phillippe Cote St. Free.
- **MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY** 405 Pine St., 624-6500. Free.
- **NUTFIELD ALE & STEAKHOUSE** 55 John Devine Drive, 668-6110. Free for customers.
- **PANERA BREAD** 933 S. Willow St., Manchester, 627-2443, and 7 Colby Ct., Bedford, 641-0500, panerabread.com. Free.
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Weekly Dish

Notes from the local food scene

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

• Friendly Kitchen finds a new home:

After being destroyed in a fire last April, the Friendly Kitchen has finally found a new home in the Capitol City. The new Friendly Kitchen, slated to open by Thanksgiving, will be located on South Commercial Street in Concord and boast a dining room that seats 120 people.

• **Have some fun raising funds:** Zorvino Vineyards, 226 Main St., Sandown, 887-8463, zorvinovineyards.com, will host a fundraiser for Chris Boshar, of North Andover, Mass., on Saturday, July 21, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Boshar, 26, was paralyzed in a boating accident in Meredith last July. The event will feature a visit by World Welterweight champion Tony DeMarco, wine tasting, bocce, entertainment, food, an auction and a raffle. Admission is free (does not include food).

• **Wine poured by a pro:** Hanover Street Chophouse, 149 Hanover St., Manchester, 644-2467, hanoverstreetchophouse.com, will host John Trant, tasting room manager at Grgich Hills Winery in Saint Helena, Calif., as a guest bartender for a wine tasting on Saturday, July 21, at 6 p.m.

• **Nashua restaurant celebrates two downtown events:** The Saffron Bistro, 80 Main St., Nashua, 883-2100, thesaffronbistro.com, will offer dinner and drinks deals through Saturday, July 21, for guests who show receipts from local shops participating in Nashua's Boutique Week. The eatery will also offer drink specials, from 4 to 6 p.m., in celebration of the Downtown Music Festival.

• **Learn how to prepare your farmers market purchases:** The Warner Area Farmers Market has 10 outdoor cooking demonstrations scheduled on Saturdays through Oct. 13, from 10 to 11 a.m. Deb Rannacher will demonstrate how to make ice cream in a bag using cream from Contoocook Creamery on July. Other demo topics include summer salads and salsas, family menus using fresh ingredients, healthy cooking, local milk mozzarella cheese and local corn tamales. Visit sites.google.com/site/eatlocalkael for a full schedule.

• **New barbecue date:** A vegan barbecue will be held at Tilton Island Park on Main Street in Tilton on Sunday, July 22, from 1 to 5 p.m. Guests are asked to bring a vegan dish to share, but grilled vegan samples will also be doled out at the picnic. Register for the event (and send your recipe) to Louisa Dell'Amico at louisa@metrocast.net.

• **Wine happenings in the Gate City:** WineNot Boutique, 170 Main St., Nashua, 204-5569, winenotboutique.com, will host its first Wine and Dine Club event at 36 deLux, 36 Lowell St., Manchester, on Monday, July 23, at 7 p.m. (a social hour will begin at 6:30 p.m.). The event will feature a tasting of four dishes, paired with wine. The dinner costs \$60 and reservations are required. The

Continued on Page 46

Tropical tastes at the sports club

Ignite gets a sister restaurant inside Executive Health Center

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

The steel drum of Caribbean music hums softly from the outdoor speakers as you sip a colorful cocktail while enjoying dinner in a poolside cabana.

No, you are not on a tropical island. In fact, you haven't even left the Granite State.

Sizzle Bistro opened at Executive Health & Sports Center in Manchester on July 12.

"We want everyone to enjoy a little bit of vacation," said Maureen Lemire, Sizzle's general manager, of the restaurant's concept. The eatery, which is open to the public, is owned by Manchester restaurateur Neville Pereira and features a menu of popular dishes from his Hanover Street eateries, Ignite and Hooked.

The center used to house a small members-only cafe. Mike Benton, owner of Executive Health & Sports Center, wanted to add a restaurant to the center's offerings that would focus on the social wellness aspect of the business, which he is developing into a community wellness facility.

"Neville has done such an outstanding job with Hooked and Ignite and met our needs because he has always offered healthy cuisine," he said. "It was the combination of that, flavor and his ability to run a successful franchise." Sizzle Bistro diners can purchase a single-day Executive Health & Sports Center pass for \$15 (or \$40 for a family of up to four members).

Diners can access Sizzle Bistro from the parking lot and from inside the sports club, where the eatery is tucked into the basement. Red lamps glow over each table inside the restaurant, which seats 100 guests, and red rope lights glow from the underbelly of the bar, which features six flatscreen TVs.

"We call it Ignite on steroids," Lemire said.

Glass doors lead to a stone patio — and the sports center pool, complete with rows of cloth lounge chairs — which seats another 100 guests at umbrella-shaded tables. A grass hut-like tiki bar, with three flatscreen TVs, is also set up outside and lined with Polynesian-style statues. Chairs are set up around fire pits on one side of the patio, near cushy cabanas complete with pillows. At dusk, heat lamps are ignited and flames ascend up their glass tubes for all to see. Live music is featured on the patio every Thursday through Saturday.

Push a button, get a pour

Vino opens NH's first self-serve wine station

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

Self-service wine tasting had always been Dan Villafranca's plan at Vino Aromas in Manchester, as it was something he and his wife enjoyed during their visits to the South.

"We went from place to place and had so much fun pressing the buttons and finding wines we really liked," Villafranca said. "We wanted to share that experience."

Starters at Sizzle Bistro include the Ignited Mussels (served in a butter, garlic, white wine sauce), Fried Pickles, Maple Glazed Scallops & Bacon, Kahuna Tuna (seared ahi tuna strips on a wonton surfboard of watercress, pickled ginger and wasabi sauce), and the Sizzle Salad (mixed greens served with a sizzling platter of onions, red peppers, artichoke hearts, sun-dried tomatoes, marinated chicken breast and fantail shrimp).

The menu also boasts a variety of burgers (beef, turkey and bison) and sandwiches, including the Tuscan Dip (Black Angus beef topped with smoked provolone and Asiago cheese, served on an Italian loaf with Tuscan seasoned au jus for dipping), Philly Very Veggie (sautéed purple onion, red and green peppers, spinach, tomatoes, artichoke hearts, seasonal vegetables and mushrooms, topped with Monterrey Jack cheese and served on a baguette) and the Seacoast Sandwich (lightly breaded haddock, served with cole slaw, tartar sauce and melted cheddar on a Kaiser roll), which Lemire said has already emerged as a customer favorite.

Among the entrees are The Nest (sautéed chicken tenders, artichoke hearts, sun-dried tomatoes and spinach, finished with feta cheese and garlic butter, served over angel hair pasta), Blackened Mahi Mahi (seared mahi mahi coated in Cajun spices), Filet Mignon Tournedos (beef tenderloin wrapped in smoked bacon, served on a French crouton with bearnaise sauce) and Seafood Cioppino (shrimp, scallops, haddock, mussels and clams in a broth of tomatoes, butter, wine and Italian herbs). "We call it 'ocean in a bowl,'" Lemire said. "There's a little bit of everything in there."

The tiki bar offers a special bar menu. Guests at the bar can order the Mezzaluna Plate (hummus, tabbouleh, pickled purple onions, olives and pita bread), Tutti Frutti (a plate of sliced fruit and berries), Shrimp Ceviche, Buffalo Bleu Chips (homemade potato chips topped with buffalo sauce, blue cheese dressing and pancetta), Kahuna Tuna, or a variety of raw bar options to enjoy with a Watermelon Margarita or Dragon Berry Mojito, or a less-than-200-calories cocktail

Sizzle Bistro

1 Highlander Way, Manchester, 232-3344, sizzlebistro.com

Hours: Monday through Wednesday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Thursday through Saturday, 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.



The dining room at Sizzle Bistro in Manchester. Angel Roy photo.

such as the Skinny Minny (vodka, muddled kiwi, strawberry, lime and club soda) or the Wolf Bite (wolf berry rum, lemon-lime soda and a splash of grenadine).

All menus are available for lunch and dinner, and everything is made to order.

"If you don't see it on the menu, ask," Lemire said. "If we're capable of making it, we will make it."

Sizzle Bistro will be open year-round (give or take a few holidays), and Lemire said she hopes the restaurant will have earned itself enough of a reputation to continue to draw in customers during the colder months. "We have to start out strong and perfect and go from there," she said, adding that the center installed a gas heating system outside so the restaurant can extend its outdoor season for as long as possible. "The summer is so short around here, and people love to be outside," she said.

half glass (3 ounces) and full glass (6 ounces) — using prepaid cards. The average price for a taste is \$1.78, for a half is \$5.70, and for a full is \$9.

"It's a little cheaper than restaurant prices for a glass," Villafranca said. The prepaid cards, available from employees at the shop, allow for exact pours and measures to be dispensed. The cards show their balance when inserted into the machine.

"There is zero waste of the wine and, more

FOOD



A self-serve wine station at Vino Aromas in Manchester. Angel Roy photo.

importantly, I can open stuff so people don't have to buy the bottle in a restaurant and ... worry about wasting it," Villafranca said.

Villafranca is also able to monitor his inventory and observe "in real time" whether someone has been over-served, even though the card will only allow for 6 ounces to be poured an hour. Villafranca can turn cards off from his laptop, if necessary. All wines in the stations are sold in the shop.

Villafranca has made some changes to the dining and wine tasting area at Vino Aromas over the last few months. The space now boasts an array of coffee tables and black leather wrap-around couches; a flatscreen TV will soon be added to the spread, and Villafranca will set up outdoor seating later this summer.

In addition to pouring themselves one of 30 (soon to be 36) New and Old World

wines at the shop, guests may order platters of cheese, meat, cheese and meat, anti-pasto and Mediterranean snacks, or wraps (turkey and cheese, tuna salad or chicken salad). They may also forgo selecting their own wines and order a flight (sweet white, white, light red or bold red) pre-designed by Villafranca, who runs hour-long introductory wine courses, complete with cheese pairing, at the shop by request every Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday, for \$25. "I talk until you fall over," he said.

Villafranca will switch out the sampling wines every 30 days and will fill the Napa Technologies WineStations with mostly whites — particularly Riesling, Moscato and Sauvignon Blanc — this summer. Other whites for self-service sampling at Vino Aromas include Kim Crawford Sauvignon Blanc and Dreaming Tree Chardonnay by Dave Matthews. White wines are kept at 50 degrees, red at 64. Argon gas replaces oxygen in the devices to keep the wines fresh and give each a 60-day shelf life.

"Four days is the longest I've seen a bottle here so far," Villafranca said. Grafen Reipperg Lemberger and Semtrot, German wines with character profiles similar to a Pinot Noir, Campus Oaks Red Vine Zinfandel, and Chupacabra, a red blend created by the lead singer of the band Tool, are new additions to the stations.

If the self-serving tasting station takes off, Villafranca said, he will look into franchising and expanding to Chicago and to Portland, Maine, where Villafranca said there is a "big need" for such a shop. He has also looked at Newburyport, Mass., as a possible seasonal shop location.

Vino Aromas

997 Elm St., Manchester, 626-8466,
vinoaromas.com.

Food Listings

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- **APPLE ACRES** 52 Searles Road, Windham, 893-8596, appleacres.com.
- **APPLE HILL FARM** 580 Mountain Road, Concord, 224-8862, applehillfarmnh.com.
- **BARRETT HILL FARM** 450 Fitchburg Road, Mason, 878-4022
- **BEANS & GREENS** 245 Intervale Road, Gilford, 293-2853, beansandgreensfarm.com.
- **BEECH HILL FARM** 107 Beech Hill Road, Hopkinton, 223-0828, beechhillfarm.com.
- **BROOKDALE FRUIT FARM** 38 Broad St., Hollis, 465-2240, brookdalefarms.com.
- **COOK FARMS** 869 Concord Stage Road, Weare, 529-0223
- **CURRIER ORCHARDS** 9 Peaslee Road, Merrimack, 881-8864
- **DIMOND HILL FARM** 314 Hopkinton Road, Concord, 224-0602, dimondhillfarm.com.
- **ELWOOD ORCHARDS** 54 Elwood Road, Londonderry, 434-6017
- **GOULD HILL FARM** 656 Gould Hill Road, Contoocook, 746-3811, gouldhillfarm.com.
- **GRAND VIEW FARM** 35 Fife Road, Canterbury, 783-9886
- **GREEN THUMB ACRES** 49 Boyce Road, Canterbury, 783-4359

- **GRIFFITH FAMILY FARM** 148 Main St., Plaistow, 974-2590
- **HACKLEBORO ORCHARDS** 61 Orchard Road, Canterbury; Route 4 in Boscawen; 783-4248, hackleboroorchards.com,
- **HIGHLAND VIEW FARM** 101 Range Road, Windham, 898-3831, farmnfools.com.
- **HILLSIDE APIARIES** 31 Hillside Terrace, Merrimack, 429-0909.
- **J&F FARMS** 124 Chester Road, Derry, 437-0535, jandffarms.net.
- **KESSLER FARMS** 4 Sunapee St., Nashua, 883-9052, theblushingrose.com.
- **LEDGE TOP FARM** 40 Courthouse Road, Amherst, 620-7302, ledgetopfarm.com.
- **LULL FARM** 65 Broad St., Hollis, 465-2607; 615 Route 13, Milford, 673-3119, lullfarmllc.com.
- **MACK'S APPLES** 230 Mammoth Road, Londonderry, 434-7619, mackapples.com.
- **MEADOW LEDGE FARM** 612 Route 129, Loudon, meadowledgefarm.com.
- **PEAK ORCHARDS** 896 Craney Hill Road, Henniker, 428-3397
- **PETERS FARM** 2 Cross St., Salem, 893-2551
- **PUSTIZZI FRUIT FARM** 148 Corn Hill Road, Boscawen, 796-6040, pustizzifruitfarm.com.

- **RED MANSE FARM** 5 Pittsfield Road, Loudon, 435-9943, redmansefarm.com.
- **ROSSVIEW FARM** 84 District #5 Road, Concord, 228-4872
- **SMITH FARM STAND** 131 Kimball Hill Road, Hudson, 881-8210, smithfarmhudson.com.
- **SUNNYCREST FARM** 59 High Range Road, Londonderry, 452-9652, sunnycrestfarmnh.com.
- **TROMBLY GARDENS** 150 N. River Road, Milford, 673-0647, tromblygardens.com.
- **WORK SONG FARM** 501 Currier Road, Hopkinton, 219-0297, worksongfarm.com.

Farmers markets

- **AMHERST** at Amherst Village Common on Thursdays, from 3 to 6 p.m. through Oct. 18. Visit amherstmarket.com.
- **BEDFORD** at Benedictine Park on Tuesdays, from 3 to 6 p.m., through Oct. 16. Visit bedfordfarmersmarket.org.
- **CANTERBURY** at the Elkins Public Library on Center Road on Wednesdays, from 4 to 6:30 p.m., through Oct. 3. Visit ccfma.net.
- **CHESTER** at Chester Congregational & Baptist Church, 4 Chester St., on Thursdays, July 19

Continued on Page 48

Karen Wright

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Summer in a can

Now's the time to preserve fresh fruits and berries

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com



Canning in best done in glass Ball or mason jars. Angel Roy photo.

Farmers market season is in full swing, but as each fruit and vegetable will only be in season for so long, many consumers turn to canning to preserve their favorites and enjoy them year-round.

Marisa McClellan grew up in a household where her family canned jam made with the fruits from its blackberry bushes and plum and apple trees.

"It wasn't the kind of thing where we were canning to get through the winter," McClellan said. "Mom couldn't bear the thought of letting anything go to waste."

McClellan picked up canning again six years ago after collecting 13 pounds of blueberries with a friend. "It was one of those things where we were like, 'What do we do with 13 pounds of berries?' Make jam," she said, adding that she immediately called her mother for a few canning tips, ran to the hardware store for jars and began the process. "There's just something about it that clicked and resonated with me, so I kept doing it," she said. McClellan later opted to use the art of preserving food as the topic of her first book, *Food in Jars: Preserving in Small Batches*.

lavender and honey are also good fruit infusion options.

"Once you start canning, you start to discover just how many different ways there are make your jams and pickles unique," she said.

Zucchini is one veggie that often turns to mush during the pressure canning process, but that doesn't mean you can't try, Mullen said. The Italian squash is best preserved frozen and then grated, to be used in zucchini bread, pancakes or stir-fry, she said. Lettuce and other greens are also quick to become mush, and thicker foods are difficult to can, as it can be hard for the heat to penetrate them, she said.

Getting started: Tools of the trade

Different foods need different methods of canning. High-acid foods can be canned in a boiling-water bath that raises their temperature to 212 degrees F. Low-acid foods are more prone to bacteria, and thus require the higher temperatures of pressure canning.

Alice Mullen, food and agriculture field specialist at the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, recommends that beginner canners start with a boiling water canner; she said these are inexpensive and can often be found at yard sales. This kind of canner lets you can high-acid foods such as pickles and jellies. A lobster pot can make a reasonable substitute, Mullen said.

Also helpful for any canning: funnels (to pour liquid into jars), lid wands (to pick up preheated lids) and jar lifters (to pull jars from the boiling pot).

Conventional mason or Ball jars are most commonly used for canning, but any glass jars with two-part metal lids can be used. Two-part canning lids "give the most dependable and reliable seal," McClellan said.

Jars can be reused as long as they are not damaged. But reusing a commercial jam jar from the grocery store is not recommended, as these are not typically designed to be used in home canners. The jars may have already been exposed to heat and may not have proper sealing capabilities. A good seal is necessary to ensure bacteria don't grow in the jar.

Jams, jellies, pickles: Boil water

For foods high in acid, such as jams, jel-

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FOOD

lies and pickles, use the boiling-water-bath method of canning. You can buy a canner or start with a stock pot large enough for a rack to be placed flat inside it and to fit jars well enough so that there is an inch of water over them, and also an inch of space between the water and the top of the pot. The rack protects the jars from the heat of the stove and allows water to fully circulate around the jars.

You'll warm the jars and fill with the warm or hot product. Then the double-seal lid gets screwed on tight, and the jar is lowered back into the water. Some space must be left in each jar between the top of the product and the lid so that when the jar is heated, the air in that space will expand and form a seal as it pushes its way out of the jar. "Essentially what it's doing is creating a vacuum," McClellan said.

The amount of boiling time varies depending on the recipe. Jams typically need to boil for 10 minutes, whereas some foods need to be boiled for more than an hour, McClellan said.

Corn and green beans: Pressure canning

For foods low in acidity, such as corn, cucumbers and green beans, pressure canning is the way to go.

"You can get the contents in that canner really hot because you're using pressure," Mullen said. McClellan said pressure canners can raise the temperature of the contents to 240 degrees. "If you put green beans into a boiling water canner, it would only reach up to 212 degrees — that's not hot enough to kill botulism spores," Mullen said.

Pressure canners — not to be confused with pressure cookers — cost between \$60 and \$350, depending on the manufacturer, size and style, and have gauges that measure the amount of pressure being applied to the jar. To process green beans using a pressure canner, you must first wash them and trim their ends, then decide whether to process them raw or cook them for a short time before placing them into the sterilized canning jars.

Making sure your food is safe

Food preservation is done so that food may be stored at room temperature safely. Mullen warned that bacteria, too, thrive at room temperature, which can result in a very dangerous product if your jar is not sealed properly. *Clostridium botulinum* is a botulism spore that can grow easily in low-acid foods and, if consumed, could cause illness and, potentially, death, Mullen said. It is difficult to determine when such spores begin to grow in canned products, she said: "They change into a vegetative state and produce a toxin, and that toxin is deadly." If the seal of a jar filled with low-acid foods is in question, the process can be redone within 24 hours of canning. The same product can be used, and the sterilized jar heated again in the pressure canner, but Mullen warned that the quality of the product may be degraded. To better maintain the original state of the product, Mullen suggests blanching and freezing it before the

process begins.

"Blanching deactivates the enzymes," Mullen said. "If you don't blanch, they keep breaking down the plant material in the frozen state and, as a result, your food will be really mushy and not very good."

The United States Department of Agriculture recommends that home canned products not be kept for more than a year, but McClellan said she has been able to squeeze a little extra time out of some.

"The purpose is not to preserve something forever," she said. "You're supposed to eat it."

If you can depress the button on the jar's metal lid after the pressure canning process, the jar isn't sealed. Clear liquid in the jar, or contents leaking from it, are also indicators that the process was not done properly.

"Basically, you know you've done it right if you used tested recipes and followed directions exactly," Mullen said, adding that is much easier to tell whether high-acid foods are spoiled because they usually grow mold or yeast. "The problem with bacteria in low-acid foods is that you can't smell it or see it," she said.

Do your research

Both McClellan and Mullen expressed the importance of doing research before attempting canning. That might mean talking to an expert or reading books, McClellan said.

"If you dive in and decide you want to make a chutney, you have to be careful because you'll need to balance the high-acid and low-acid ingredients. ... If you don't know you need those things to balance, you might create a product that is not safe," McClellan said. Mullen suggests sticking with USDA-tested recipes at the beginning, and following them precisely.

"When people can, they are investing a significant amount of time and money, and they want their products to come out as a high-quality item, as well as come out safe," Mullen said.

Do it right, and you can reap the benefits.

"You buy things only when they're in season, when they tend to be inexpensive, and you preserve and eat it when it's not in season," McClellan said. Preserved goods also make good gifts, she added. "People feel like you're giving them something amazing, but it maybe cost 50 cents a pound," she said.

Another benefit of canning has nothing to do with money; it's about knowing where your food comes from.

"People are disconnected with what they're eating and want to have more control over it," McClellan said. "This is a way to take back control and the awareness of what is in their food."

Have your pressure canner dial gauges tested by calling the UNH Cooperative Extension Education Center at 877-398-4769, or email the center at answers@unh.edu.

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FOOD

Perishables

Red onion

I never go out for pizza. Seriously. I mean, why would I when the pizza I can make at home is so freaking delicious? Especially when I wow my guests and make it on the grill. That’s right, *pizza on the grill*. Pizza you can make it in the summer that won’t heat up your kitchen when it’s 80 degrees outside! It’s a fairly simple process yet lends itself to endless possibilities.

I like to begin my pizza-making with a look at the bigger picture: What do I feel like eating? Yes, this is one of life’s most important questions..... Most of the time, it’s barbecue chicken pizza. Popularized by the restaurant California Pizza Kitchen, barbecue chicken pizza is absolutely scrumptious. Everyone I know seems to love it and it’s quite the hit with kids, making it a go-to family meal. Obviously, this pizza contains chicken and barbecue sauce, but the special ingredient I like to add is red onions. Their mild and slightly sweet flavor complements the barbecue vibe of this pizza and takes it to the next level, in my

opinion. It also doesn’t hurt that adding these to the pizza is a great way to sneak in a vegetable.

Onions contain all sorts of nutritional benefits: fiber, vitamin C, potassium — red onions in particular contain a ton of flavonoids, which are believed to combat free radicals in the body. Yeah, it’s that good. Take a look at the recipe below and get grilling. —Allison Willson Dudas

Each week in Perishables, Allison Willson Dudas digs through the fridge for stuff that needs using while it’s fresh and concocts a home recipe to maximize its potential. Questions? Comments? E-mail her at food@hippopress.com.

Barbecue Chicken Pizza

Makes one pizza, serves about 3
 1 cup barbecue sauce
 1 breast chicken, grilled and chopped
 1½ cups mozzarella & cheddar cheese, shredded
 1/3 red onion, sliced
 For pizza dough (unless you buy it pre-made):
 3 cups all-purpose flour
 1 (.25 ounce) package active dry yeast
 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
 1 teaspoon salt
 1 tablespoon white sugar
 1 cup warm water (110 degrees F/45 degrees C)

Combine flour, salt, sugar, and yeast in a large bowl. Mix in oil and warm water. Heat the grill to medium. Roll out the dough and stop when you get to the thickness you desire. Spray the part that’s going on the grill first with olive oil. Spray the top of the grill with olive oil and place the dough on for about 5-10 minutes. Watch it carefully, waiting for it to firm the bottom and cook much of the center.

Remove dough from grill, it should resemble a harder pizza crust on the bottom. Spray the top, uncooked side, with olive oil and re-spray the grill. Flip dough over so bottom becomes the top and add your toppings to the cooked side. First, add barbecue sauce (it substitutes for tomato sauce). Then, add cheese, chicken and red onions. Place back on the grill and cook for 5 to 10 minutes until top is slightly browning.

Slice, serve and enjoy!

Weekly Dish Continued from page 42

boutique will also host “WineNot Paint?” an evening of wine tasting and painting, on Thursday, July 26, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$40 and reservations are required.

- **Celebrate summer with Greek cuisine:** Taxiarchai Greek Orthodox Church, 811 N. Main St., Laconia, 542-9415, taxiarchainh.org, will hold its Greek Summer Festival on Saturday, July 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will feature Greek pastries and music. Admission is free.
- **Local company seeks Certified Local distinction:** Dyn in Manchester has applied for its new employees-only café to be the first private restaurant to earn the Certified Local distinction from the New Hampshire Farm to Restaurant Connection, a volunteer organization that connects restaurants with local farmers.
- **Crustaceans at the Copper Door:** The Copper Door, 15 Leavy Drive, Bedford, 488-2677, copperdoorrestaurant.com, has added some lobster dishes for the summer. The new menu features Artisan Cheese Lobster Dip, Lobster Paella, Lobster Roll and Lobster Fettuccine.
- **Farm fresh food for Granite State seniors:** The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (also known as the New Hampshire Farm Fresh Delivery Program) will begin distributing fresh produce to more than 4,500 low-income seniors this month. The Fresh Farm Delivery Program sources produce from more than 25 Granite State farmers and seniors must be enrolled in the program through the Commodity Supplemental Food Program to participate. Call 800-942-4321.

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FOOD

From the Pantry Marmalade

It's easy to get caught up in the excitement of summer dinner cookouts. But we can't neglect the most important meal of the day, even on the balmiest of mornings: breakfast. This mouthwatering recipe is the delicious answer to all of your breakfast/brunch needs. It's quick, easy and, most important, it's pantry-friendly.

The recipe for this French toast casserole is from Sandra Lee of the Food Network. It utilizes an assortment of pantry ingredients and a few fresh ones to make prepping the meal in advance or on short notice a snap. But this is not your mother's French toast. With ingredients like pumpkin spice and marmalade, this breakfast casserole has just the right blend of sweet and spice.

Marmalade is easily found in any grocery store in the aisle with the jams and jellies. Like its jam counterparts, marmalade is a fruit preserve. Made from the juice and peel of citrus fruits, and then boiled with sugar and water, marmalade is a sticky-sweet, and at the same time bitter, addition to many toppings and sauces. The sweetness coupled with the citrus creates a savory spoonful that blends beautifully into breakfast treats. While you'll most often find orange marmalade in stores, the preserve can be made from lemons, limes, grapefruits, mandarins or any combination of the fruits.

Marmalade dates back to more than 2,000 years ago as a solid, cooked quince and honey paste made by the Spanish. It was used as a preserve but also as a remedy for digestive complaints. The Portuguese eventually caught on to the delicious treat, perhaps through the Arabs, around the 10th century. Shipments of marmalade arrived in London beginning in 1494 and quickly became a popular gift among noble families. Over the years and through the natural evolution of popular foods, marmalade grew in popularity. It eventually became commonly associated with breakfast or English tea-time. While the United States was one of



Treat yourself and brunch guests with a recipe that showcases sugar, spice and everything nice. Lauren Mifsud photo.

the few British colonies that did not gorge on the sweet treat as it grew to be a popular export, it still turns up in grocery stores, on breakfast tables, and in popular recipes around the country.

In this particular dish, marmalade is used in combination with syrup and fruit to create a sweet and savory topping for French toast casserole. Make this dish the night before a big brunch, or get up early for some extra prep time. It'll need an hour to sit and an hour to bake; while the wait will have your mouth watering, this dish is well worth it. Enjoy while warm for a heavenly breakfast experience that blends a myriad of flavors that is sure to wake up your palate — and your guests — any day of the week. —Lauren Mifsud

Each week in *From the Pantry*, Lauren Mifsud manages to make a satisfying meal or snack even if the fridge is empty, by digging through the pantry for forgotten staples and easy, always-ready flavors. How is your pantry stocked? E-mail Lauren Mifsud with questions or comments at food@hippopress.com.

French toast casserole with marmalade syrup

Recipe from Sandra Lee of the Food Network

- 2 boxes (12.5 ounces each) frozen cinnamon-swirl French toast
- 4 eggs
- 3 cups milk
- 2 cups pure maple syrup
- 1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
- 1/3 cup marmalade
- 1 banana, sliced

Spray two 9x13 baking pans with cooking spray. Place the French toast slices in a single layer on the bottom of both pans; set aside. In a medium bowl, whisk together eggs, milk, 1 cup of maple syrup and pumpkin pie spice until well combined. Pour evenly over the French toast in the pans. Cover with plastic wrap and let sit for one hour; occasionally pushing the toast down into the mixture. Then, preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Remove the plastic wrap and bake the casserole for about one hour, or until golden brown. Meanwhile, in a small saucepan, heat the remaining one cup of maple syrup, 1/3 cup marmalade, and a sliced banana over medium-low heat until warm/heated through. Serve warm over the French toast casserole.

and Aug. 16, from 5 to 8 p.m. Call 887-4799.

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Just Desserts

Peanut Butter Cookies

It was about 14 years ago that I ventured across the Atlantic to spend a semester attending the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. As one does when studying abroad, I learned about all sorts of cultural differences, including those pertaining to food. In Scotland, for example, tuna and sweet corn made a common pizza topping, ketchup was not a common accompaniment with fries (sorry: chips), and, to my shock and horror, Reese's Peanut Butter Cups were simply not to be found. Anywhere.

In fact, not only was my favorite candy unavailable, but the very idea of mixing chocolate and peanut butter seemed to utterly revolt my Scottish flatmates. So in the end, though my time in Scotland was certainly a grand adventure, I was more than happy to return home to a country in which peanut butter confections are widely created and celebrated.

And celebrate them we most certainly do. Without even looking very hard, one can easily find peanut butter fudge, peanut butter ice cream, peanut butter mousse, brownies boasting peanut butter swirls, ice cream sundaes topped with peanut butter sauce, and any number of cookies and tarts that riff on the classic combination of peanut butter and jelly.

For my money, however, the best way to enjoy peanut butter in dessert form is also one of the simplest: the peanut butter cookie. Done well, the peanut butter cookie is rich and buttery and chewy and divine.

For home bakers, achieving the right density and texture can be somewhat problematic. Cookies made with shortening keep their shape well but tend to have a



flatter flavor; those made with butter taste delectable but tend to spread out too much during baking, becoming thin and crisp. The solution to this problem, it turns out, is stupefyingly simple: Chill your dough before baking. Cold butter takes longer to warm up and melt, thus preventing the cookies from over-spreading. The resulting cookies are thick enough to be chewy and satisfying, without sacrificing the rich flavor of butter. Enjoy. —Sarah Shemkus

Each week in Just Desserts, Sarah Shemkus fiddles around with sweet ingredients to create a delectable homemade dessert and shares the results. To suggest your own ideas or ask more about hers, e-mail her at food@hippopress.com.

Peanut Butter Cookies

This recipe comes (mostly) from Bon Appétit, via epicurious.com.

- 3 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 large eggs

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix flour, baking powder and salt in medium bowl. Beat butter, peanut butter and vanilla in large bowl until well blended, then beat in both sugars. Scrape down sides of bowl. Stir half of dry ingredients into mixture. Add eggs one at a time, stirring well after each addition. Mix in remaining dry ingredients. Chill dough in freezer for 30 to 60 minutes. Roll dough into 1-inch balls, or form cookies with cookie scoop. Arrange dough balls 2 inches apart on parchment-lined baking sheets. Using back of fork, flatten dough balls slightly and form crosshatch design on tops. Bake cookies until dry on top and golden brown on bottom, about 14 minutes. Cool cookies on baking sheets 5 minutes, then transfer cookies to racks to cool completely.

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DRINK

Wines worth the money

Spend or save on these bottles

By Stefanie Phillips
food@hippopress.com

About once a month, I will recommend some of my latest wine samplings in what I call "Spend or Save." This is a collection of wines I have found that are either worth spending a few extra dollars on (spend), or cheaper and exceed their value despite the price tag (save). This month, I chose one red and three whites.

Spend: A to Z 2011 Oregon Pinot Gris is normally \$15.99 at state liquor stores; I paid \$13.99 on sale. A to Z is one of Oregon's fastest-growing wineries, and since its founding in 2002 it has won multiple awards. This wine was harvested during one of the latest and coolest growing seasons in Oregon, according to the winemaker. While producers were fearful, the weather held out until mid-November and the quantity and quality of the grapes were good. The grapes did have a lower alcohol content, mainly in the red varieties. The wine was produced using grapes from 23 different Oregon vineyards to encompass the best of the state's pinot gris. This pinot gris (also known as pinot grigio) is pale yellow in color, with a nose of citrus, grapefruit and lemon. I found it semi-dry and slightly acidic with good balance and a long finish. I don't always like pinot grigio, but this one has good structure and depth without being overly dry or harsh. **Spend: Relax Riesling** is worth spending on even at the regular price, and you can often get it on sale at local supermarkets or at liquor and wine outlets. I paid \$10.99; it's regularly \$12.99. It's my favorite kind of riesling: not too sweet and not too dry. The winemaker calls it America's favorite riesling, and Wine Enthusiast Magazine named it a "best buy." This wine has been one of my go-to bottles since I discovered it a few years ago. The pretty blue bottle and simple label called to me, but the wine itself lives up to the outward appearance. It is slightly dry, with a fruity bouquet on the nose. It is fruit-forward

with flavors of apples, peaches and a hint of citrus. I love the balance of the sweetness and acidity in this wine. Just make sure you enjoy it well-chilled. This riesling is the perfect accompaniment to seafood, poultry, salads and spicy dishes, but I like it on its own during a warm summer night. **Spend: Firesteed 2009 Oregon Pinot Noir** is garnet in color, with aromas of raspberries, cedar, leather and spices. I scored a bottle of this wine on sale at my local liquor and wine outlet for significantly less than its original price of \$18.99 (I paid \$12.99) and I wish I had bought more — I forgot how much I liked it. I discovered it at a wine tasting in Boston a couple years ago. This wine, different from the pinot gris, was harvested during a great year for grapes with a hot July and warm August. Grapes were collected from Willamette, Umpqua, Rogue and Walla Walla Valleys to create a fabulous pinot noir blend. There are fruit-forward flavors of berries and cherries, with soft tannins and a nice, lingering finish. The label is very attractive, and this wine is worth every penny. Beginner red drinkers may even like it, as it is light and fruity. If you see it on sale, get some — you will not be disappointed.

Save: Try Fetzer Shaly Loam 2010 Gewurtztraminer (also called a "wurtz" for short). I put this in the "save" category because I purchased it for less than \$10 — \$8.99 (regularly \$10.99) — but in any case it's a great summer wine. It comes from an Earth-friendly winery whose owners tout its sustainability and is produced in true German style. You can just smell the sweetness on the nose of this wine, along with aromas of rose petals and honeysuckle. This leads to flavors of honeyed apricot and peach with just enough sweetness without being overpowering. It is reminiscent of moscato and is definitely not for anyone who doesn't like sweet wine. Drink it well-chilled as an aperitif or enjoy it with desserts like strawberry shortcake or berries with cream.

Drink Listings Breweries/Distilleries

• **ANHEUSER-BUSCH** 221 DW Hwy., Merrimack. Complimentary tours include a visit to the Clydesdale Hamlet, home of the world-famous Budweiser Clydesdales. Open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 595-1202.

• **ELM CITY BREWING COMPANY** Colony Mill Marketplace, 222 West St., Keene, 355-3335, www.elmcitybrewing.com. Restaurant, brewery and pub, open Mon.-Thurs., 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to midnight; Sunday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

• **THE FLYING GOOSE BREW PUB & GRILLE** 40 Andover Road in New London, 526-6899, flyinggoose.com.

• **INCREDIBREW/ GRAPE TIME WINERY**, 112 DW Highway, Nashua, 891-2477, grape-timewinery.com (call for class schedule, tastings).

• **MARTHA'S EXCHANGE RESTAURANT & BREWING COMPANY** 185 Main St. in Nashua, 883-8781, marthas-exchange.com.

• **MILLY'S TAVERN** 500 Commercial St. in Manchester, 625-4444, millystavern.com.

• **THE PORTSMOUTH BREWERY** 56 Market St., Portsmouth, www.portsmouthbrewery.com, 603-431-1115. Free tours Thurs., Fri., & Sat. at 3 p.m.

• **REDHOOK BREWERY** 35 Corporate Drive, Pease Tradeport, Portsmouth, www.redhook.com, produces Redhook ales and features the Cataqua Public House offering brews and a pub menu. Tours offered Monday and Tuesday at 2 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday at noon, 1, 3 and 4 p.m.; Friday and Saturday every hour on the hour from noon to 4 p.m.; Sunday every hour on the hour from 1 to 4 p.m. For private tours, call 430-8600 ext. 327.

• **SEVEN BARREL BREWERY** 5 Airport Road in West Lebanon, 298-5566.

• **SMUTTYNOSE** 225 Heritage Ave., Portsmouth, smuttynose.com, 436-4026. Free tours to the public Friday at 3 p.m. and Saturday at 11 a.m.

• **TUCKERMAN BREWING COMPANY** 64 Hobbs St., Conway, 447-5400, www.tuckerman-brewing.com, offers tours every Saturday at 3 p.m.

• **WHITE BIRCH BREWING** 1339 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 244-8593, www.whitebirchbrewing.com. Open daily.

Classes/workshops on wine/beer making

• **BEER/WINE-MAKING** classes and demonstrations on making beer, wine and soda at Incredibrew, 112 DW Hwy., Nashua, 891-2477, incredibrew.com. Shop features fest-nights that focus on making a particular kind of beer.

DRINK

Red, white and green A lot of wine, a little cash

For this week we decided to go back to some of the California classics, sort of, with one white and one red wine.

Our first wine was a **2010 Clos La Chance Chardonnay** from Monterey County priced at \$10.99 in the state stores. This white was almost white in color with a faint straw cast to it; for a chardonnay it was lighter than we expected. This lightness of color reflects that this chard is unoaked, which means that it was not aged in oak barrels as is most common with chardonnays. The nose was a bit minerally with hints of lemon and pear. The flavors of this wine were quite bright with grapefruit, lemon and green apple. This is a nice summer sipper that stands up to warm weather, grilled chicken, salads and fish.

Our second wine was a **2008 Kendall-Jackson Vintner's Reserve Summation Red Wine Blend** from Cal-



ifornia priced at \$11.99 at the state stores. This red blend was a light burgundy in color, so light that you could see through it. The nose was lush with bright aromas of berries. This wine, which on Kendall-Jackson's website sells for \$17 (actually for the current release of 2009) is a mix of a half dozen grape varieties including zinfandel, syrah, merlot, grenache, petite sirah and others, from Kendall-Jackson's own vineyards all over California. The flavors presented an even berry-like lushness with bright dried cherry and notes of tobacco and earth. This wine has virtually no tannins and a touch of pomegranate.

Each week in "Red, White & Green," two wine-lovers look at red and white wines, none over \$20 (and most under \$15), in an attempt to find some great bottles for good prices. All prices are according to the state liquor store (nh.liquor.state.nh.us) unless otherwise stated.

• **FUNGUS AMONG US BREWFEST** will be held at Incredibrew, 112 DW Highway, Nashua, 891-2477, incredibrew.com, on Thurs., July 19, at 6 p.m. Guests will brew a variety case of English Pub Ale. The class costs \$35 and registration is required.

• **ANNIVERSARY BREWFEST** will be held at Incredibrew, 112 DW Highway, Nashua, 891-2477, incredibrew.com, on Sat., Aug. 11, at 9 and 11:30 a.m. The Fest costs \$35 to \$60 and registration is required.

Classes/workshops on beer/wine tasting

• **WINENOT BOUTIQUE** 170 Main St., Nashua, 204-5569, www.winenotboutique.com, offers six-week courses on different subjects related to wine. Sign up for all six classes or for individual sessions.

• **WINE SOCIETY** (650 Amherst St. #9 in Nashua, 883-4114; www.winesociety.us) offers classes for wine-lovers of all levels. New sessions start every few months. Call for upcoming schedule.

• **OAKED WINEFEST** will be held at Grape Time Winery, 112 Daniel Webster Highway, Nashua, 891-2477, incredibrew.com, on Thurs., Aug. 16, at 6 p.m. Admission to the fest costs \$60 and registration is required.

Special wine tastings

• **NH WINE FESTIVAL** The association held its third annual celebration of local wines in August 2011. Check www.nhwineryassociation.com for information on next year's festival.

Special beer tastings

• **REDHOOK FEST** will be held

at Redhook Brewery at Pease International Tradeport in Portsmouth on Sat., Aug. 18, at 2 p.m. Moe. will headline the festival, which will also feature food vendors, Redhook beer and activities for children. Tickets cost \$25 at redhook.com, and the Cataqua Public House (children younger than 12 get in free with the purchase of an adult ticket).

Weekly/monthly tastings

• **ATTREZZI** 78 Market St., Portsmouth, 427-1667, www.attrezzinh.com, Fridays at 3 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m.

• **BUTTER'S** Weekly wine-tastings at Butter's Fine Food and Wine, 70 N. Main St., Concord, 225-5995, www.buttersfinefood.com, Thursdays, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Some tastings are held Fridays as well.

• **CORNUCOPIA WINE AND CHEESE MARKET** 4 Front St., Exeter, 772-4447, holds a tasting every Friday from 4 to 7 p.m.

• **DOVER WINE STORE** 364 Central Ave., Dover, 742-WINE (9463), www.doverwine.com, on Fridays, 4 to 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 1 to 4 p.m.

• **THE DRINK SHOPPE** 214 Central St., Hudson, 578-1130, www.thedrinkshoppe.net, holds a free beer and steak tasting Fridays from 4 to 6 p.m.

• **DURHAM MARKETPLACE** 7 Mill Road, Durham, 868-2500, holds wine tasting on Fridays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

• **FIDDLEHEAD FARMS MARKETPLACE** 920 Central Ave., Dover, 749-9800, every Friday until July 15, from 4 to 6 p.m.

• **FRIDAY NIGHT FLIGHTS** Enjoy weekly wine tastings — Friday Night Flights — at several area state liquor stores, where

Riedel stemware will be for sale for \$3.99 per glass for the tasting. Tastings will run from 4 to 6 p.m. at Capitol Shopping Center, 80 Storrs St. in Concord; 417 S. Broadway in Salem; Market Basket Plaza, Route 125 in Plaistow, and Merrimack Village Center, 6 Dobson Way in Merrimack. Tastings will run from 5 to 7 p.m. at North Side Plaza, 31 Hamel Drive in Manchester; Bedford Grove Plaza, 5 Colby Court in Bedford, and 27 Coliseum Ave. in Nashua.

• **NH LIQUOR STORES** statewide host wine-tastings and promotional events. See www.nh.gov/liquor/mktevent.shtml.

• **SIDEWAYS TASTING** WineNot, 70 Main St., Nashua, 204-5569, will hold a "sideways" wine tasting on Wednesdays from 5 to 7 p.m. The tastings will present wines from an individual distributor to be tasted side by side.

• **WINE SENSE** 166 N. Main St., Andover, Mass., 978-749-9464, www.wine-sense.net, Thursdays from 6 to 8 p.m.

• **WINE SOCIETY** (650 Amherst St. #9 in Nashua, 883-4114; www.winesociety.us). Membership in the Society includes discount on wines and Society events, which include weekly and monthly wine tastings, wine and food pairings and classes on wine varietals.

• **WINE STEWARD** 201 Route 111, Hampstead, holds tastings every Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m., and Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. Call 329-4634 or visit www.thewinestewardnh.com.

• **THE WINE STUDIO** 53 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 622-9463, thewinestudionh.com, holds free wine tastings on Thursdays from 5 to 8 p.m. At each tasting, four wines and hors d'oeuvres pro-

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Playlist

*A seriously abridged
compendium of recent and
future releases*

• *Shrines* is the forthcoming debut album from Canadian indie-tronic duo **Purity Ring**. In a bizarre twist of fate, nothing I've heard off this album is bad; it's sort of like Golden Filter meets Birthday Massacre at a velvet-rope club. Translated from obscure-band-ese, that means they use various hiphop and trance beats, have a girl singer who sounds kind of hot, and write good songs.

• Good lord, the new **Gaslight Anthem** album, *Handwritten*, due out Tuesday, was produced by none other than whatsisname, Brendan O'Brien, whose credits include Springsteen (probably most of their '59 *Sound* album sounded like Bruce's rough songwriting ideas before "Dancing in the Dark" actually became a song) and Pearl Jam. The new Gaslight Anthem song "45" must be totally awesome, let me check it out right now, I'll go find it. OK, sounds like Bono singing for Trail of Dead. Rock is saved, I suppose.

• Boston-based electropop dudes Passion Pit release their second LP, *Gossamer*, on Tuesday. On the test-drive-single "Take a Walk," the band sort of makes like Arcade Fire trying to make a clog-dancing version of "I Ran" by Flock of Seagulls. What does this mean? Why are we here? STOP STARING AT ME, I don't tell these bands what to do on their albums.

• If you always wanted to hear **Ronnie James Dio** sing "Smoke on the Water" for some insane reason, and you have extra money for utterly random import albums, you will have your chance next week, upon the release of *Who Cares* — no, that's the actual title — a collection of classics, unreleased nonsense and old Sabbath songs from **Tony Iommi** and **Ian Gillan**. Includes a one-off version of "Trashed" with those two guys playing with Ian Paice and Roger Glover.

• You all know **Mike Patton** from Battles, Tomahawk and Faith No More, right? Please say you do. OK, just pretend you do for a second, because everything he does is so cool it makes me sick to my stomach. Anyway, just when you thought this guy had hit the pinnacle of cool already, there's a new album titled *Laborintus II* in which he got to do the narration over Ictus Ensemble's symphonic Dutch performance of this super-weird work, which was originally commissioned to celebrate Dante Alighieri's 700th birthday in 1965. Lines from Dante, T.S. Eliot, Ezra Pound and St. Isidore of Seville are woven into it, and it's really disturbing and weird, coolness factor pegged to 11. Will I listen to it during my morning commute? No. Does Mike Patton suck for being so disgustingly cool? Yes. —Eric W. Saeger

POP CULTURE:

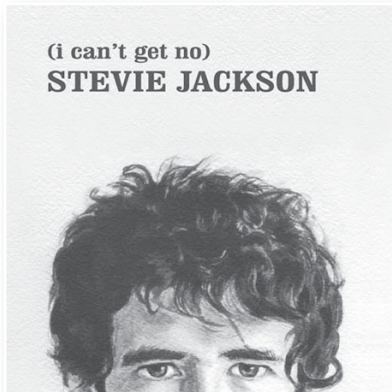
CDS

Brian Jonestown Massacre, *Aufheben*
A Records, May 7



If BJM leader Anton Newcombe was a funny guy (or at least a little less whacked) in real life, he'd probably be considered the Riddler of album titles made from portmanteaux and other groan-eliciting linguistics jokes. His out-of-control druggie escapades in the *Dig!* movie, in which he starred with "hopeless sellouts" Dandy Warhols, made me think of self-deconstructed dudes I've known in my life, guys who believe their ability to accomplish cool (if derivative) things on the fly makes them geniuses whose weaknesses are no match for their promises. So where are we now? Well, I don't know; Matt Hollywood is still putting up with it all, so he's here, as is one of the Spacemen 3 guys, in other words the revolving door of Newcombe's indie cabal is still greased. The LP in question has some absolutely awful flute solos and sitar runs tossed over some skronk-n-psychedelic hallucinations (mainly instrumental) that would have been good had they not been ruined with the flute and random Middle Eastern flourishes — are you making a statement about Pakistan, Anton, or did you go to the source to buy your last bag? Al Jourgensen needs to save this guy from himself, you know, drag him into the quasi-Ministry fold with Gibby Haynes and Jello Biafra and all those super-punks before no one gives a rat's ass anymore. **B** —Eric W. Saeger

Stevie Jackson, (*I Can't Get No*) Stevie Jackson
Banchory Recordings, July 3



The lone comment on the DrownedIn-Sound.com review of this LP says it all: The commenter became a fan because the logo on Stevie Jackson's business card is so awesome. Jackson is the guitarist for twee gods Belle & Sebastian, this album came out on B&S's own label, and to heck with the rest of you, is one way of looking at it. Another way of looking at these tunes would be serviceable pop without any hair or teeth, mainly evoking the stuff the members of The Beatles did on their respective solo bases. Think about that, though — it's seriously not the most insulting thing a musician could ever hear. Though loaded up with pseudo-puns and the sort of wordplay that made you pine so desperately for a werewolf invasion of *Gilmore Girls*, the music ranges from fine to "eh," the "fine" part being some ren-faire jangle on "Dead Man's Fall" and the "eh" centered on two obvious fillers. But don't read too much into the haters of this record: Some people absolutely detest wimpy retro '60s/'70s rock, some don't, so your knowledge that this LP exists may spell your lucky day. **B-** —Eric W. Saeger

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• Stevie Jackson, (*I Can't Get No*) Stevie Jackson **B-**

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• *Seating Arrangements* **B**

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• Drive-in goes digital

• *Ice Age: Continental Drift* **B-**

• *To Rome With Love* **C-**

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POP CULTURE:

Seating Arrangements, by Maggie Shipstead (Knopf, 299 pages)



We all know not to judge a book by its cover, nor by its Amazon reviews, but jacket blurbs we're given to trust. No matter how level-headed the reader, these bite-sized orgies of adjectives tempt, promising that the pages within are "deeply moving" and "delightfully funny," that the author is "outrageously gifted" and if we weren't so willfully parochial, we would have known this before now.

"Advance praise" from an author you know and love is like a first-tier connection on LinkedIn. If Richard Russo likes Maggie Shipstead, who are we to disagree? Thus, we enter Shipstead's first novel, *Seating Arrangements*, predisposed to affection, despite the red flag frantically waving from the author bio on the back jacket.

It says: "Maggie Shipstead was born in 1983 and grew up in Orange County, California."

That's it.

That's it? The sum of her life and experience?

Oh, yeah, it also lists a few places Shipstead's short stories have appeared and says she's a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and had a fellowship at Stanford University.

But no matter how well a writer knits together 100,000 words, it's nice for her to have some complex life experience to offer along with a manuscript. Hemingway spoiled us like that.

Shipstead doesn't even have a Wikipedia page. But OK. Russo says she's good, so we drink the literary Kool-Aid, and find we agree. She's good. Maybe great. Occasionally, as Russo says, "hilarious and deeply moving."

Winn Van Meter is a Harvard man, a banker who runs his life like he packs the family's Grand Cherokee: "fitting everything together with geometric precision." Two areas of his life, however, have proven imperfect: First, his offspring: wayward daughters, not upright sons; and his bewildering inability to be accepted into the Pequod, not the whaling ship, but the exclusive country club to which he aspires.

These frustrations slip into the luggage

BOOKS

as Van Meter heads from his Connecticut home to the Cape, where family and friends have gathered at the family's rustic home for the wedding of his pregnant eldest daughter. The cast includes Winn's loyal and long-suffering wife Biddy; the recently jilted younger daughter, Livia; a drunken sister-in-law, and a cast of bridesmaids more complex and vibrant than anything Hollywood has given us recently.

Shipstead learned something in Iowa, or comes by it naturally: how to craft a memorable line. The book is full of them. A beached whale is "an onyx teardrop, a great black river rock." A baby emerging at birth is a "screaming ham hock." Characters "commune with the vodka gods."

Her descriptives are poetic: "In his mirror was a young man who wore a tennis sweater with confidence and about whom blew the salt breeze of youth and promise."

Every sentence, every paragraph, is perfectly crafted, lovely to behold and pleasing to roll around on your lips. The characters are interesting and familiar. Shipstead's ability, as a 20something student, to write as a 50something male, is astounding. So why does it seem as though this book will never end, even though it's a story that takes place over three days?

It's the longest wedding weekend ever. But because Shipstead's language is like delicate confection, even while longing to leave, we stubbornly stay for the cake.

The problem is the lack of problems, or at least, the lack of significant ones. Will Winn revert to his pre-"crib and Labrador" ways, and cavort with a come-hither bridesmaid? Will Livia reunite with her beau? What bridesmaid will sleep with which groomsman? What family secrets will spill?

All these things are quite compelling when the characters are flesh and blood at your own family reunion, but in a 300-page book, no matter how well-drawn the characters are, it's hardly page-turning drama. No matter how any of the dilemmas play out, the Vatican will not fall. It's a frustrating thing to read such beautifully crafted words and wish for a dusting of Dan Brown; not enough to deaden the prose, but just to quicken the pace.

It's not that the emperor has no clothes, only that she has too many. In future outings, may she remove a couple of layers.

B —Jennifer Graham

BOOK & LECTURE LISTINGS

Libraries

- **Amherst Town Library**
14 Main St., Amherst, 673-2288, amherst.lib.nh.us
- **Bedford Public Library**
3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford 472-3023, bedford.lib.nh.us
- **Concord Public Library**
45 Green St., 225-8670, www.concordpubliclibrary.net
- **Derry Public Library**
64 E. Broadway, Derry, 432-6140, derry.lib.nh.us
- **Goffstown Public Library**
2 High St., Goffstown, 497-2102, goffstown.lib.nh.us
- **Hollis Social Library**
2 Monument Sq., Hollis, 465-7721, hollis.nh.us
- **Hooksett Public Library**
1701B Hooksett Rd., Hooksett, 485-6092, hooksettlibrary.org

- **Manchester City Library**
405 Pine St. (main branch) and 76 N. Main St. (West branch), 624-6550, manchester.lib.nh.us
- **Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum**
18 Highlawn Road, Warner, 456-2600, indianmuseum.org
- **Nashua Public Library**
2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4610, nashualibrary.org
- **Rodgers Memorial Library**
194 Derry Road, Hudson, 886-6030, rogerslibrary.org
- **Tucker Free Library**
31 Western Ave., Henniker, 428-3471, tuckerfreelibrary.org
- **Wadleigh Memorial Library**
49 Nashua St., Milford, 673-2408, wadleigh.lib.nh.us
- **Wilton Public Library**
7 Forest Road, Wilton, 654-2581, wiltonlibrarynh.org

Bookstores

- **Barnes & Noble**
1741 S. Willow St., Manchester, 668-5557; 235 DW Hwy, Nashua, 888-5961; bn.com
- **Double Midnight Comics & Collectibles**
245 Maple St., Manchester, 669-9636, dmcomics.com
- **Gibson's Bookstore**
27 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbkstore.com
- **MainStreet Bookends**
16 E. Main St., Warner, 456-2700, mainstreetbookends.com
- **River Run Books**
Portsmouth, 431-2100, riverrunbookstore.com
- **Toadstool Bookshop**
586 Nashua St., Milford, 673-1734, toadbooks.com.

POP CULTURE:

BOOKS

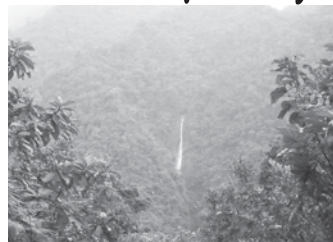
Other

• **Manchester Historic Association**
200 Bedford St., 622-7531,
manchesterhistoric.org
• **New Hampshire Humanities Council**
117 Pleasant St., Concord,
224-4071, www.nhhc.org
• **New Hampshire State Library**
20 Park St., Concord,
www.nh.gov/nhsl
• **New Hampshire Writers' Project**
SNHU, 2521 N. River Rd.,
Manchester, 314-7980,
nhwritersproject.org
• **Rivier College**
420 Main St., Nashua,
888-1311, rivier.edu.
• **UNH Manchester**
400 Commercial St., Manchester,
641-4101, unhm.unh.edu

Author events

• **DEBORAH HARKNESS** will talk about her new book, *Shadow of Night*, a sequel to her bestselling debut *A Discovery of Witches*, at a Writers in the Loft event on Thurs., July 19, at 7 p.m. at The Music Hall Loft in Portsmouth. Tickets, \$43, include reserved seat, book, bar beverage, author presentation, Q&A and book-signing meet-and-greet. Call 436-2400 or go to themusicall.org.
• **TORY HILL AUTHOR SERIES** in Warner takes place at the Warner Town Hall, 5 Main St. Tickets are \$7 per event or \$30 for the series and may be purchased at the door. Next up is photojournalist William Hubbell, author of *Good Fences*, on Sat., July 21, at 7 p.m. A dessert buffet and book signing will follow a Q&A period with the author. For a list of authors and dates or to purchase tickets online, visit www.toryhill-authorseries.com.
• **BETSY WOODMAN** will read from her debut novel, *Jana Bibi's Excellent Fortunes*, on Tues., July 24, at 7 p.m. at Water Street Bookstore in Exeter.
• **REBECCA MAKKA** will read and sign copies of *The Borrower* on Tues., July 24, at 7 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore in Concord.
• **LOCAL AUTHORS NIGHT** is Wed., July 25, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Chester Public Library, 3 Chester St., 887-3404, chesterlibrary.com, featuring local authors who write for young readers. Authors Gardner M. Browning, Michelle McCorkle, Eric Pinder, and Paula Casey Wood will be present to talk about and sell some of their

In the spotlight



Costa Rica

Get away to the beauty of Costa Rica for a while, in the Meredith Public Library (91 Main St., Meredith), as Portsmouth resident and former teacher Joan Schaeffer gives a talk about her travels and volunteer work on Tuesday, July 24, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Schaeffer's talk will focus on highlights of her travels to three of Costa Rica's national parks, and the opportunities there for visitors and volunteers. Call the library at 279-4303 or e-mail erin@meredithlibrary.org.

works.

• **CHRIS CLEAVE** will talk about his new novel, *Gold*, on Wed., July 25, at 7:30 p.m. at The Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, as part of the Writers on a New England Stage series. Tickets to the event cost \$13 and are available at the box office, 436-2400 or www.themusicall.org. Copies of the book can be purchased in advance at the Music Hall box office. The producers ask patrons to support this series by purchasing their books through The Music Hall.
• **LOCAL AUTHORS NIGHT** is Wed., Aug. 1, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Chester Public Library, 3 Chester St., 887-3404, chesterlibrary.com. Local authors including Robert Crawford, Bennett Gavrish, Tim Horvath, Renee Mallett, Jenn Monroe, Holly Robinson and Michael Shea will be present to talk about and sell some of their works.
• **JENNIE FIELDS** will talk about her book *The Age of Desire*, about Edith Wharton, on Wed., Aug. 8, at 7 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore in Concord.
• **LEA WAIT** will visit the Mystery Book Group on Thurs., Aug. 9, at 10:30 a.m. at Meredith Public Library to talk about her book *Shadows on the Coast of Maine*. Wait is a Maine author, historian and antique print dealer who writes the Agatha-finalist *Shadows Antique Print* Mystery series featuring protagonist Maggie Summer.

Lectures and discussions

• **MY GRANDFATHER'S LATHE: BASIC WOODWORKING** presentation by woodworker Stephen Carey

on Tues., July 24, at 7 p.m. at Amherst Town Library, will offer a basic introduction to woodworking including what you need to get started, the variety of materials and tools available, project planning, and ways to learn the craft. Admission to this presentation is free but registration is required due to space limitations: call 673-2288, e-mail library@amherst.lib.nh.us or use the Calendar of Events at www.amherst.lib.nh.us.

• **METEORITES—ROCKS FROM SPACE** presentation by retired astronomy teacher Robert Veilleux on Thurs., Aug. 2, at 6:30 p.m. at Hooksett Public Library. Guests will get to see and hold the different types of meteorites that fall to Earth and are highly prized collectibles.

• **SENNETT, CHAPLIN, KEATON AND THE ART OF THE SILENT FILM** presentation on Tues., Aug. 21, 6:30-8 p.m. at Meredith Public Library by Dr. Patrick Anderson of Colby-Sawyer College. Sponsored by the NH Humanities Council and the Friends of the Meredith Library.

Book discussions

• **AMHERST TOWN LIBRARY** Friday Afternoon Book Club meets on the second Friday of the month at the library. Call Beth Blodgett at 673-2506 for info. Visitors and/or new members always welcome (please call in advance). Call Beth Blodgett at 673-2506 for info.

• **THE BOOK CELLAR** in Nashua hosts a book club that meets on the first Wed. of each month, new members always welcome. The Book Cellar is at 34 Northwest Blvd., Nashua, in the

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• **NASHUA READS: ONE CITY, ONE BOOK 2012** selection is *When Madeline Was Young*, by Jane Hamilton. See nashualibrary.org/nashuareads.htm for a list of book discussions and related events, culminating with a visit from the author on Sun., Oct. 21, at the Rivier College Dion Center in Nashua (tickets \$7 in advance). • **SALEM SCIENCE FICTION BOOK GROUP** meets at Kelley Library in Salem. New members are welcome, and copies of the book can be borrowed at the library. Wed., Aug. 1, at 7:30 p.m., discussing *Shards of Honor* by Lois McMaster Bujold. • **AMHERST TOWN LIBRARY ADULT SUMMER READING EVENTS** include e-book classes on Thurs., Aug. 2, at 2 p.m. (iPads and iPhones) and Thurs., Aug. 9,

day of each month at Toadstool Bookshop in Milford. Welcomes older teens and adults to share the books they've recently read.

Other

• **BOOK AND MULTIMEDIA SALE** on Sat., July 28, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sun., July 29, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Auburn Village School, 11 Eaton Hill Road in Auburn, (corner of Hooksett Road) to benefit the Griffin Free Public Library in Auburn. Thousands of books, plus videotapes, audiobooks, DVDs, CDs and more. Call 483-5374 or email GriffinLib@comcast.net.

at 2 p.m. (nooks and other devices). Events are free but registration is required due to space limitations; to register, call 673-2288, e-mail library@amherst.lib.nh.us, or visit www.amherst.lib.nh.us and go to the calendar of events.

• **GENEALOGY LOCK-IN** at Meredith Public Library on Fri., Aug. 3, 5-8 p.m. Arrive at the library before it closes at 5 p.m. and be locked in with fellow genealogists to do research. Attendees will have the library, the eight library computers and all of its historical resources to work with. Ask questions of fellow genealogists or share your experiences with others. At 6, pizza will be brought in.

POP CULTURE:

FILM

Drive-in goes digital

It's the latest old way to see films

By Jeff Mucciarone
jmucciarone@hippopress.com

There are about 20 drive-in movie theaters in the country that have digital projection. The Milford Drive-In Movie Theater is now one of them.

Heading into this drive-in season, owner Bob Scharmette decided to make the switch to digital.

"It's a much better picture, a real sharp picture, and the sound is better, too," Scharmette said.

Film production companies are moving away from 35mm film and toward all digital all the time. Scharmette said the drive-in missed out on a couple movies last year because they weren't made in 35mm.

"Our customers wanted to see those particular movies, and we figured we were going to have to make the move," said Scharmette, who has owned the theater for 44 years. "We decided to jump in now."

So far, so good. Scharmette said viewers have made a number of comments about the better picture.

The drive-in season, which began in mid-April at Milford Drive-In, has been strong so far this year.

"It's one of the first times in years we've had good weather," Scharmette said. "Course, we don't know what it will be like the rest of the season. But it's all based on the weather."

Scharmette figured the drive-in, which is at 531 Elm St. in Milford, will be packed on Thursday, July 19, as the theater will feature a special one-night screening of *The Dark Knight*, which was released in 2008, and at 12:01 a.m. it will feature the much-anticipated new film *The Dark Knight Rises*, which releases nationally Friday, July 20. Last year, the drive-in made a similar move with Part 2 of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. The drive-in screened Part 1 prior to midnight. Scharmette said the evening was very popular last year, and many kids dressed up for the Harry Potter film.

The season used to be longer for the drive-in. Scharmette said it used to open in the beginning of March and then close just before Thanksgiving.



The Milford Drive-In Movie Theater will feature a special double screening of *The Dark Knight* on Thursday, July 19, followed at 12:01 a.m. by a screening of *The Dark Knight Rises*. Courtesy photo.

"There are just so many other activities for people to do," Scharmette said. "A lot of [high school] football used to be played on Saturdays, but now a lot of them have Friday night lights and they play Friday nights. That's hurt us."

Now the drive-in closes on the last Saturday in September.

But plenty of folks still look forward to the drive-in experience.

"A lot of people want to show their children and grandchildren what a drive-in is, for nostalgia reasons," Scharmette said.

The fun doesn't stop with the films at the Milford Drive-In. For the first time, the theater brought in remote-control cars this year. As always, the theater concession stand provides soft-serve ice cream, and Friday nights feature singing by Judy Pancoast prior to films starting.

Scharmette suggested people not overlook the food at the concession stand at the drive-in.

"It's all the highest quality and the prices are very reasonable," Scharmette said. "A lot of people come in for dinner before the movies. It really is excellent food."

Visit milforddrivein.com. Films start approximately at dusk. Tickets cost \$20 per up to six occupants, and \$5 per person over six passengers. Call 673-4090.

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Ice Age: Continental Drift

Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG)

Manny the mammoth and his animal friends navigate in Ice Age: Continental Drift, the fourth movie in the Ice Age series.

I know, four — I totally forgot about at least one of them.

Manny (voice of Ray Romano) and Ellie (Queen Latifah) may have fought dinosaurs and global warming but they now face their biggest challenge — raising teenage daughter Peaches (Keke Palmer). Peaches wants to hang out at the falls with the cool kids, particularly hot boy mammoth Ethan (Aubrey Graham), but Manny, always the overprotective dad, is not cool with that. He would prefer she hang out with her molehog buddy Louis (Josh Gad), who is bummed about being stuck in the friend zone with Peaches. Meanwhile, Sid the sloth (John Leguizamo) is briefly visited by the family that abandoned him. While he had hoped for a reunion, they only stopped by to dump off Granny (Wanda Sykes). They are

in a big hurry because it appears that the world is going through some significant changes.

As we've seen before in the shorts that have Scrat (the proto-squirrel) chasing an acorn on the Earth's core and causing a crack-up of the supercontinent, the world is undergoing some tectonic shifts. (Yeah, just forget about trying to fit this series into a timeline that, if you'll remember, included in the first movie Manny and the crew caring for a human baby.) A wall of land is inching toward the spot our friends call home, threatening to push them into the sea unless they cross a land bridge a few days' walk away. Unfortunately, the break-up comes fast and Manny, Sid, Granny and Diego (Denis Leary) are stuck on a hunk of land that sails out to sea. Desperate to get back to his family, Manny and the gang run into an iceberg of animal pirates, led by Captain Gutt (Peter Dinklage, making a juicy meal of his villainous role — another argument for everything having more Dinklage). Finding a way home will mean escaping his crew — or at least most of his crew. Diego seems not so eager to escape Shira (Jennifer Lopez), a sleek gray saber-toothed tiger.

With the Peaches and Ellie storyline, we get a tale of teen crushes and a lesson about not being a jerk to your friends just to suck up to the cool crowd. In the Manny storyline, we get adventure and pratfalls. Throughout, there are scenes with Scrat, Wile E. Coyote to the acorn's Roadrunner, some of which have appeared in shorts. It's a lot of movie for your buck (particularly if you don't bother with the 3D).

And *Ice Age* feels, as the series always has, about quantity of cartoon more than quality of story. It's more Saturday cartoon than animated feature masterpiece. You have your wacky little squirrel for the tiniest viewers, your more developed stories for the older kids and, I guess, a few sarcastic asides for the parents. (One from Sid did actually make mention of the anachronistic appearance of dinosaurs in the last movie.) Nothing here feels exceptional, but it is all a notch above serviceable and even the 12-year-old I brought with me to the theater enjoyed himself. **B-**

Rated PG for mild rude humor and action/peril. Directed by Steve Martino and Michael Thurmeier with a screenplay by Michael Berg and Jason Fuchs, Ice Age: Continental Drift is an hour and 34 minutes long and is distributed by 20th Century Fox.

To Rome With Love (PG-13)

Americans and Italians navigate love and success in the Eternal City in To Rome With Love, one of those filler Woody Allen movies that we get between good Woody Allen movies.

Yes, this is one of those, those

forgettable paper sleeve movies separating the Mint Milanos of actual entertainment. Between *Midnight in Paris* and *Whatever Works*, we had one dud of a feature film. (It was *You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger* — I know I saw it but I have almost no memory of it. And yes, I liked *Whatever Works*.) Between *Whatever Works* and *Match Point*, there were two. (That's right, *Vicky Cristina Barcelona* was, in my opinion, filler.) Between *Match Point* and *Small Time Crooks*, there were five very tough rows to hoe. Maybe the next movie, or the one after that, will be a real swell time. And hey, that's not a terrible average. You make roughly a movie per year, as Allen does, you're bound to make a few mediocre-to-sucky ones. And good on him for being the driving force, success or failure, of the movies he makes. I think that perhaps he should try to make more movies that don't feel bogged down by decades-old ideas, but, hey, *Midnight in Paris* felt original.

To Rome With Love, on the other hand, feels like some forgotten, dust-covered idea revived due to lack of something better. The movie cuts between four unconnected (as far as I can tell) stories:

(1) Hayley (Alison Pill), an American visiting Rome, falls in love with Michelangelo (Flavio Parenti). Her father, Jerry (Woody Allen), a retired classical music producer thinks Giancarlo (Fabio Armiliato), Michelangelo's father, has a voice for opera and tries to get him into the spotlight. But he can only sing when he's in the shower.

(2) Successful architect John (Alec Baldwin) returns to Rome, where he lived decades earlier, and wanders around his old neighborhood. He meets Jack (Jesse Eisenberg), a

young man studying to be an architect, who is living with his girlfriend Sally (Greta Gerwig) and about to meet her friend, the nothing-but-trouble Monica (Ellen Page).

(3) Antonio (Alessandro Tiberi) and his new bride Milly (Alessandra Tiberi) come to Rome to live and perhaps build some wealth thanks to a job Antonio has with his uncles. But then she gets lost in the city looking for a salon and he is mistaken for a customer by prostitute Anna (Penelope Cruz).

(4) And then there's Leopoldo (Roberto Benigni), middle-class shmo who briefly becomes a celebrity on par with Brad Pitt.

I had faint memories of *Melinda and Melinda*, that darkest point before the dawn of *Match Point*, while watching this movie. That movie featured tales unspooled by three people sitting around a table talking, providing clunky introduction to what we're about to see and a "here's the point" summation. Here, a man stands up near the end to tell us that life is tough for everybody so we might as well enjoy the perks of celebrity. OK, sure, it's as good a ruling principle for this mushy mix as anything. But the movie didn't actually make me think about that. It didn't actually make me think about anything. Perhaps in the Alec Baldwin segment I could have pondered the idea of youthful mistakes, but the movie, so literal in its "watch the old guy Greek chorus his younger self," actually seems to say "no, that's OK, we'll state the point for you." So then I'm just left "enjoying" what, the comedy? The performances? The witty dialogue? Ha, no. **C-**

Rated R for some sexual references (and because nobody under, say, 50 is really going to want to see this any-

Reviewlets: Snack-sized movie reviews

* indicates a movie worth seeing. For reviews of graded films, go to www.hippopress.com.

***The Amazing Spider-Man* (PG-13)** Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone.

Yes, this story was just told, like, yesterday (2007), but once again we delve into the world of Peter Parker,

Gwen Stacy and genetically altered spiders. **B**

***Brave* (PG)**

Voice of Kelly Macdonald, Emma

Thompson. Pixar finally gets a girl hero in this take of a spunky red-headed Scottish princess who seeks to control her own fate. Not one of Pixar's

finest but *Brave* is still solid family fare. **B+**

***The Dark Knight Rises* (PG-13)** Christian Bale, Anne Hathaway.

Christopher Nolan's Batman saga comes to a close with this movie featuring Bane as the big bad. Most anticipated movie of the summer? I think so. Opens Friday, July 20.

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Movies outside the cineplex

RED RIVER THEATRES

11 S. Main St., Concord, 224-4600, www.redrivertheatres.org
• **Bernie** (PG-13, 2011) Thurs., July 19, at 2:05 & 7 p.m.; Sun., July 22, through Tues., July 24, at 2:05 & 7 p.m.; Wed., July 25, at 7 p.m.
• **Moonrise Kingdom** (PG-13, 2012) Thurs., July 19, at 2:10, 5:45 & 8:15 p.m.; Fri., July 20, through Sun., July 22, at 1:15, 3:30, 6 & 8:30 p.m.; Mon., July 23, through Wed., July 25, at 2:10, 5:45 & 8:15 p.m.
• **To Rome With Love** (R, 2012) Thurs., July 19, at 2, 5:30 & 8 p.m.; Fri., July 20, through Sun., July 22, at 12:40, 3, 5:30 & 8 p.m.; Mon., July 23, through Wed., July 25, at 2, 5:30 & 8 p.m.
• **Best of 48 Hour Film Project** (2012) Thurs., Aug. 2, at 7 p.m.

WILTON TOWN HALL

Main Street in Wilton, wiltontownhalltheatre.com
• **Moonrise Kingdom** (PG-13, 2012) Thurs., July 19, through Wed., July 25, at 7:30 p.m., and Sun., July 22, at 2 & 4:30 p.m.
• **To Rome With Love** (R, 2012) Thurs., July 19, through Wed., July 25, at 7:30 p.m., and Sun., July 22, at 2 & 4:30 p.m.
• **The Great McGinty** (1940) Sat., July 21, at 4:30 p.m.

MILFORD DRIVE-IN

Route 101A in Milford, 673-4090, www.milforddrivein.com. Shows start about 8:10 p.m.
• Thurs., July 19, one-night-only double feature on Screen 1: **The Dark Knight** (PG-13, 2008) followed by **The Dark Knight Rises** (PG-13, 2012, opening at midnight)
• Thurs., July 19, on Screen 2: **Ice Age: Continental Drift** (PG-2012) followed by **Brave** (PG, 2012)

FRANCO-AMERICAN CENTRE

Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, www.facnh.com.
• **Cinema Mardi**, on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. Film in French with English subtitles.
• **I've Loved You So Long** (PG-13, 2008) Tues., Aug. 21, at 7 p.m.

MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY

405 Pine St., Manchester, 624-6550, www.manchester.lib.nh.us

• **Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'hoole** (PG, 2010) Mon., July 23, at 1 p.m.
• **Oliver** (G, 1968) Wed., July 25, at 1 p.m.
• **Bedtime Stories** (PG, 2008) Mon., July 30, at 1 p.m.

WEST BRANCH COMMUNITY LIBRARY

76 N. Main St., Manchester, 624-6560, www.manchester.lib.nh.us
• **Journey 2: Mysterious Island** (PG, 2012) Fri., July 20, at 3 p.m.
• **Go Diego Go: Moonlight Rescue** (G, 2008) Fri., July 27, at 3 p.m.

THE MUSIC HALL

28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, www.themusichall.org. Some of these films are being screened at The Music Hall Loft, which is at 131 Congress St. See website for details.
• **To Rome With Love** (R, 2012) Thurs., July 19, and Fri., July 20, at 7:30 p.m.; Sat., July 21, at 3 & 7:30 p.m.; and Sun., July 22, and Tues., July 24, at 7:30 p.m.
• **Breakfast at Tiffany's** (1961) Thurs., July 26, at 7:30 p.m.
• **Hysteria** (R, 2011) Fri., July 27, Sat., July 28, Sun. July 29, Tues., July 31, Wed., Aug. 1, and Thurs., Aug. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

PRESCOTT PARK ARTS FESTIVAL

105 Marcy St., Portsmouth, 436-2848, www.prescottpark.org, Monday night movies begin at dusk
• **The Lion King** (G, 1994) Mon., July 23.
• **Cape Fear** (1962) Mon., July 30.

NEWBURYPORT SCREENING ROOM

82 State St., Newburyport, Mass., 978-462-3456, www.newburyportmovies.com
• **Moonrise Kingdom** (PG-13, 2012) Thurs., July 19, at 7:30 p.m.
• **The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel** (PG-13, 2011) Fri., July 20, to Thurs., Aug. 2, Fridays at 6 & 8:45 p.m., Saturdays at 3:15, 6 & 8:45 p.m., Sundays at 4:45 & 7:30 p.m. and Monday to Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
• **Your Sister's Sister** (R, 2011), Fri., Aug. 3, to Thurs., Aug. 16, Fridays at 6:45 & 8:45 p.m., Saturdays at 4:45, 6:45 & 8:45 p.m., Sundays at 5:30 & 7:30 p.m. and Monday to Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
• **Trishna** (R, 2011), Fri., Aug. 17, at 6:15 & 8:45 p.m., Sat., Aug. 18, at 3:45, 6:15 & 8:45

p.m., Sun., Aug. 19, at 5 & 7:30 p.m. and Mon., Aug. 20, to Thurs., Aug. 23, at 7:30 p.m.

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF HISTORY AND LEGAL STUDIES

1 Stiles Road, Suite 104, Salem, 458-5145 ext. 11, info@achls.org
• **Malcolm X: Make it Plain** documentary, Fri., July 20, at 6:30 p.m., free screening with discussion to follow. Registration required.

THE COLONIAL THEATRE

95 Main St., Keene, 352-2033, www.thecolonial.org
• **The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel** (PG-13, 2011) Thurs., July 19, at 7 p.m.
• **Moonrise Kingdom** (PG-13, 2012) Fri., July 20, at 7 p.m.; Sat., July 21, and Sun., July 22, at 8 p.m.; Mon., July 23, Tues., July 24, and Thurs., July 26, at 7 p.m.; and Thurs., Aug. 2, at 7 p.m.
• **Harry and the Hendersons** (PG-1987) Sat., July 21, and Sun., July 22, at 2 & 5 p.m., and Mon., July 23, at 2 p.m.

REGAL FOX RUN STADIUM 15 and RPX

45 Gosling Road, Newington, 431-6116, www.regmovies.com
• **Star Trek: The Next Generation** 25th Anniversary event features two of the most popular episodes, Mon., July 23, at 7 p.m.
• **The Who: Quadrophenia—Can You See the Real Me? The Story Behind the Album** Tues., July 24, at 8 p.m.
• **A Birthday Celebration: The Grateful Dead Movie Event** Wed., Aug. 1, at 7 p.m.
• **RiffTrax Live: 'Manos' The Hands of Fate**, Thurs., Aug. 16, at 8 p.m.

OTHER

Silent Film Comedy Shorts, International Convention of the Sons of the Desert, the Laurel & Hardy Appreciation Society, three days of silent film comedy with live music. The free event takes place Thurs., July 19, through Sat., July 21, at the Carpenter Memorial Auditorium at Manchester Public Library, 405 Pine St. in Manchester. Screenings begin at 10 a.m. and run until mid-afternoon.

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Nite Roundup

Local music & nightlife news

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Cross the pond:** Massachusetts-born George Belli spent the late '70s playing in London punk bands and a good part of the next decade in Boston at clubs like the Rat and Jumbo's. He later fronted a Kinks cover band; his current group draws from Squeeze, The Faces and Elvii — i.e. Presley and Costello. All this makes Belli a good fit at a bar exuding U.K. vibes. See George Belli & the Retroactivists on Thursday, July 19, at 9 p.m. at British Beer Company, 1071 S. Willow St. in Manchester. For more, go to www.facebook.com/georgebelli.

• **Mountain party:** Combining old-school influences like Etta, Janis and Aretha with American roots rock, Roxanne and the Voodoo Rockers always deliver a high-energy brand of music. So after a day of jet skiing or swimming, hiking or mountain biking, the bluesy band is a good one to enjoy at a restaurant bar sitting equidistant from Lake Sunapee and Mt. Sunapee. See Roxanne and the Voodoo Rockers on Friday, July 20, at 9 p.m. at Double Diamond Café, 1407 Route 103 in Sunapee, www.doublediamondcafe.net.

• **Know the way:** With his brother Mike on lead guitar, singer/songwriter Scooter Way made edgy, riff-driven modern rock in Good Morning Chester, making the well-received *Little Things* in 2005. These days, the band has a new name, but the muscular sound is still there, and fans of Big Head Todd & The Monsters, Third Eye Blind and the rockier side of John Mayer will enjoy the quartet's sound. See Scooter Way Band on Saturday, July 21, at 9 p.m. at Pasta Loft, 241 Union Square in Milford. For more, go to www.goodmorningchester.com.

• **Seacoast blues:** An all-day music festival featuring singer/guitarist Charlie Strater ("The Devil In Me"), Dancing Madly Backwards, Linda Pouliot and a headline appearance from TJ Wheeler & The Smokers also includes a classic Chevy show, barbecue and freshly made dumplings — blueberry, naturally. The first-time effort is sponsored by the Rochester Main Street organization. Attend the Rochester Blues Festival on Saturday, July 21, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Hanson Street in downtown Rochester. See www.rochester-mainstreet.org.

• **Country fair:** The best of New Hampshire's country music scene will all be on hand for the final day of the Stratham County Fair. Tom Dixon Band, Shana Stack, Jandee Lee Porter and the Natalie Turgeon Band along with Haverhill, Mass.-based singer/songwriter Jillian Cardarelli. The whole thing begins with a chainsaw cutting completion — now, that's country. Attend the Stratham Fair, Thursday, July 19, through Sunday, July 22, at Stratham Hill Park, Route 33 in Stratham, www.strathamfair.com.

A talk with Lisa Lampanelli

Queen of Mean loves to roast

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

Outrageous stereotypes — of race, gender, religion and sexual preference — dominate Lisa Lampanelli's act, but what she savages above all is bigotry itself. At the end of every night, the "Queen of Mean" comedian reminds her audience that real haters can't be fans. An outspoken supporter of gay rights, she once pledged to donate \$1,000 for every protester when a right-wing hate group threatened to picket her show. Forty-eight showed up, and she told TMZ, "I won't quibble. I'll make it an even \$50,000."

Inspired by a love for Dean Martin celebrity roasts, the 50-year-old Lampanelli entered comedy late in life. Her big break came in 2002 when she appeared at a Friar's Club roast of Chevy Chase. She's done several since, and served as Roastmaster at Larry The Cable Guy's 2009 Comedy Central fête.

Recently, she appeared on *Celebrity Apprentice*, finishing in the final four and raising \$130,000 for her favorite charity, Gay Men's Health Crisis. After years of struggling with weight issues, Lampanelli and her husband Jimmy Cannizarro had gastric sleeve surgery last spring; she's lost 52 pounds so far. In June, when Adam Carolla took heat for saying "dudes are funnier than chicks," she defended him — even though his explanation riffed her routine: "When you're picking a basketball team, you'll take the brother over the guy with the yarmulke."

Lampanelli spoke with the Hippo from her home in New York.

First of all, it's very gracious of you to let Adam Carolla steal part of your act.

Oh, I love him! Literally, he and Penn Jillette were the reasons I got through *Celebrity Apprentice*.

You agreed with Carolla, saying your top 100 comic list only has three women — who, and why?

I love Kathy Griffin, Chelsea Handler and Sarah Silverman. Joan Rivers is iconic, so of course she's in there. But yeah, there's very few. I like women who can do comedy guys can do, not "woman" comedy. Like, I don't want to hear about your period, or your shopping habit or your husband and he's this or that. Typical woman stuff, I hate. But those chicks keep it real, so that's who I'll go to see.

What made you think you'd succeed?

I always listened to what the audience found funny, because that's what I found funny. I found it funny to make fun of people, and I loved Rickles and the roast personality. I would listen to the cassette tape of my show in the car on the way home and say, "I'm laughing at that section." If I'm really laughing at that and the audience isn't offended, that's what I'm going with. I started doing comedy late enough — 30

years old — that I already knew what I was doing already.

Before you were a comic, you worked at Rolling Stone magazine. Did that experience shape your style at all?

No, but it did help me promote myself. It's two different art forms, but when you can't afford a publicist and you're doing your first 10 years of comedy without any money, it really helps to be able to write a good press release. My training in media savvy as a writer helped me publicize myself.

You also worked for Spy magazine. What was that like?

It was so intimidating because every person there was a Harvard grad; I'd gotten my job because I'd done a Harvard program called the Radcliffe Procedures Course, which was a big deal to get into. But I was this person who didn't know what I was doing, and they said, 'You're chief of research.' Oh, my God! So I legitimately felt like such a loser. But 10 years ago they did a Spy coffee table book and interviewed us all. When I said I was intimidated, the editor told me everyone said the same thing; that it was so weird to walk in and feel like the stupidest person there. Everybody felt it, because it was so heightened, such a high-end publication that we all felt we didn't belong.

It must have felt good to be a part of it.

Yes, and at Rolling Stone, places that mattered. I was at Us Magazine before it was US Weekly, when it was a good magazine. I'm not saying it's bad now, but it's shifted to total celebrity tabloid stuff. So it's kind of like wow, back then it was very selective ... there were no New Jersey housewives on the cover.

You have a Broadway show coming up. What can people expect?

With a one-person show, you really need a story arc. Billy Crystal did *700 Sundays*, about his relationship with his father. I have his writer helping me write my show, and it really is a story, but it resembles my stand-up in that it's still funny. It definitely has moments about my life and my struggle, but without belaboring it. I always say to my hardcore fans, don't worry; we'll gloss over the crying part real quick. But there will be enough substance so that people will know ... why I am this way. There's a lot about men and food — the things I've always been obsessed with.

It's an extension of your book?

Exactly.

You recently had a gastric sleeve procedure and lost 50 pounds. Was it a difficult decision to do surgery?

No, because I knew the time was right after 32 years of struggling with it. We bought a place in Canyon Ranch, the health-



Lisa Lampanelli. Courtesy photo.

iest place in the world, and I gained weight there. Life's too short to not be able to look in a mirror and like what you see, and also have potential health risks that are really bad ... it was the easiest thing I ever did, but now it's hard. Two ounces of food six times a day — that's tiny.

Let's talk about funny stuff: Have you added any new names to your worthless person roast list?

Not yet, but we'll need to add Sandusky, Tom and Katie, Travolta, anybody who's in the news will be there next time.

Do you ever feel like there's a target that's off limits, or is everything fair game?

Oh, no. Everyone's equal — if you make fun of one minority, better make fun of all of them. You're pretty racist if you don't. I always felt like leaving somebody out is the biggest insult of all. So no one's off limits, but the only people I have trouble making fun of are the people who've been nice to me. If I met someone at a party and then they do something stupid, I feel kind of douche-y making fun of them later. But you know what? If the joke's funny, I'm gonna have to say it.

That didn't help Donald Trump at all.

Well, the Trump thing was great because he added me to *Celebrity Apprentice* after his roast, because he loved the roast so much. I thought, hey — if he can invite me on the show, if he can take it, screw it. Everybody else can too.

Have you ever regretted backlash or felt powerful people like Sarah Palin putting you in their sights?

I don't think so. Sheri Shepherd hates me and has called me racist on *The View* but Whoopi always defends me and says it's comedy. She made fun of everything and loves that kind of humor. So I don't think anybody powerful or smart has — because Sheri Shepherd is neither. But that's really the only person I've heard of who's a douche to me.

NITE

Have you ever met someone who didn't get your act, who said something like, 'Hey, you want to help Kickstart my Jewish conspiracy book?'

Yes, but not any more because I talk about it at the end now. But before they'd come up and say, those were some funny ... jokes there. You just educate or school them after. Most groups get the point — like the Gay Men's Health Crisis know the reason for the jokes. Most people are smart enough to get it.

You raise a lot of money for that charity. Are there others?

I don't think so, because the focus is really on them now. With *The Apprentice* — and I took on the Westboro Baptist Church and donated all that money to the Gay Men's Health Crisis from my own pocket. As of

now, they're the guys I'm aligned with. They get me, I get them; I've been down to their headquarters. As far as jumping into something else, I'd have to investigate that first — because I love these guys.

Do you have anything to say to people who felt you got robbed on The Apprentice?

I got kicked off just at the right time — after winning big money and before I killed anyone!

Lisa Lampanelli (18+)

When: Saturday, July 21, at 8 p.m.

Where: Casino Ballroom, 169 Ocean Blvd. in Hampton Beach

Tickets: \$32-\$68 at casinoballroom.com

Chris Smither at Tupelo

68-year-old says he's at the top of his career

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

On each of his last three records, Chris Smither revealed a philosophical side. He brushed off old age in *Leave The Light On*: "I've been left for dead before but I still fight on," the 60-something scoffed. On the subject of love and fidelity, *Time Stands Still* offered this kōan: "Lost my mind to the ties that bind but it set me free."

These days, Smither urges patience against a tide of fools: "It all comes to pass, it don't come to stay ... loosen your shoes, don't listen to news that keeps you up at night," he sings on his latest studio album, *Hundred Dollar Valentine*.

One wonders what advice might the older and wiser Smither offer to his younger, wilder self if given a chance.

"Quit drinking sooner!" he says with a laugh, adding some wisdom he often tells younger performers. "You've got a lot of time. If you are in this for the long haul, it doesn't have to happen tomorrow or next day."

Smither has the chance to impart knowledge gained from 40-plus years in music as an instructor at Fur Peace Ranch. He's taught technique at the Ohio music camp run by Hot Tuna guitarist Jorma Kaukonen since it opened 15 years ago.

"I learn as much as anybody else does, which is what I like best," he says. "There's nothing like trying to teach someone else to show what you don't understand."

Yet the man who wrote "Love You Like a Man" saved his best for last. "I am almost 68 and I'm at the top of my career," he says. "I've never done this well in my whole life." In large part, it's due to his fertile partnership with David "Goody" Goodrich, the multi-instrumentalist and producer who's helmed every Smither studio project since 2005's *Train Home*.

"It's a very easy relationship," Smither says. "There's a lot of mutual reliance — trust, actually. He trusts me to write songs that won't embarrass him to work on, and I trust him to make them sound right."

For *Hundred Dollar Valentine*, released in June, Treat Her Right alumni — harp



Chris Smither. Courtesy photo.

player Jim Fitting and drummer Billy Conway — are part of a studio band that includes Goodrich's Groovasaurus mates Anita Surahin and Ian Kennedy. The idea of using harmonica caught Smither off-guard. "I said, do we have to?" he recalls, but when the buccaneer bespoke Fitting arrived with a briefcase full of harps, he relented. His contribution to "What Might Have Been" is one of the record's high points.

Conway played on the fans-only *What I Learned In School*, a 2011 EP of covers by Chuck Berry, Lee Dorsey, Jimmy Reed and others. He and Smither found an immediate chemistry. "He reads my mind, and he understands almost instinctively how the song is supposed to feel," Smither says. "That is something that I have never experienced before with a drummer."

Smither usually adds a couple of tasty covers to his records, but this one is all original — though two are remakes of older songs.

"It just sort of happened," he says. "Usually I write a handful of songs and then start looking around for one or two covers. This time, I had the songs written and Goody said, 'Why don't you cover yourself?'"

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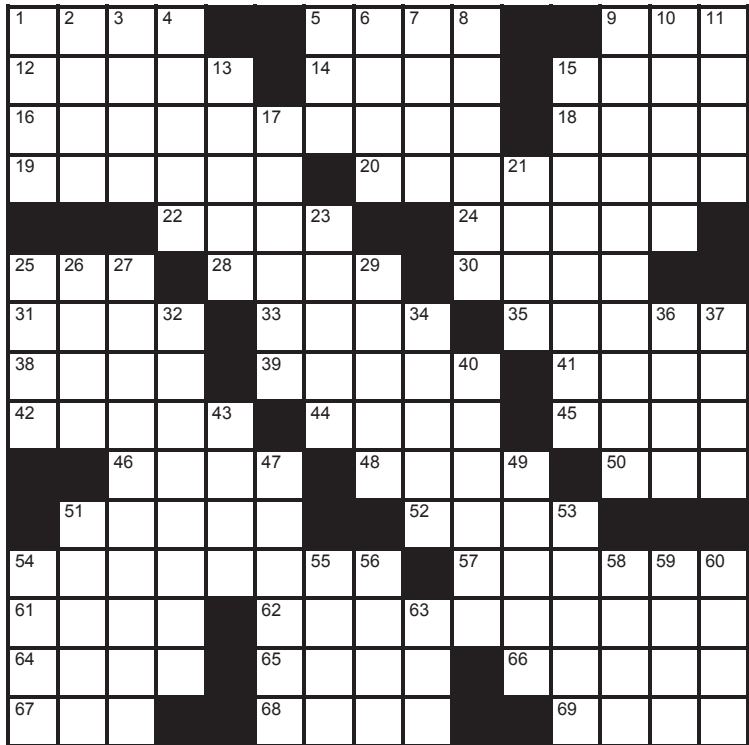
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Oh, it's on — RockandRollCrosswords.com by Todd Santos

Aross

1. 38 Special ‘___ ___ Been The One’ (2,2)
5. Fiber used for hippie threads
9. Stryper ‘Against The ___’
12. Parties, slang
14. Deal band shouldn’t make
15. Iron Butterfly ‘In-A-Gadda-Da-___’
16. The Turners (3,3,4)
18. Aaron Neville ‘Tell It Like ___ ___’ (2,2)
19. Might have a video “casting” one
20. Van Halen ‘___ ___ Lovin’ You’ (4,4)
22. Bryan Adams ‘Do I ___ To Say The Words’
24. ‘Cat-O-Nine ___’ L7



25. Melanie Doane ‘Adam’s ___’
28. Kooks song that goes thump?
30. Concert location
31. Echobelly song about a bit of physics?
33. Western state Donny Osmond is from
35. ‘Funkytown’ ___, Inc.
38. Beatles’ meter maid
39. Left Banke ‘Walk Away ___’
41. Producer Rodgers
42. Battle of the bands way in
44. Sing/songer Matthew
45. Sugarland ‘Stuck Like ___’
46. Fred Durst band ___ Bizkit
48. ‘Seven Day Fool’ soul/jazz singer James
50. Acid
51. What a music class will do
52. Tour 18-wheeler
54. Tennessee music festival
57. What usher will do to fan who’s
27. Used for a slide in a bar
29. Rapper West
32. Leonard Cohen ‘So Long ___’
34. Division of battle of bands event
36. Girlfriends: usually the ___ one
37. Mudvayne song they planted?
40. What band does for battle of the bands
43. Village People favorite
47. Accompanying melodic riff
49. Skid Row ‘Makin’ ___ ___’ (1,4)
51. Twilight Singers ‘Too Tough ___ ___’ (2,3)
53. Killers ‘Day & Age’ bonus track ‘Forget About What ___ ___’ (1,4)
54. Drifters singer ___ King (3,1)
55. Ben Harper ‘Amen ___’
56. Fu Manchu ‘We Must ___’
58. Larry Mullen bandmate
59. “I’m so glad you have ___ track mind like me” Train (1,3)
60. Porcupine ___
63. David Bowie, ___ Ziggy Stardust

7/12



- ticket doesn’t jive
61. Guster song Adam & Eve like?
62. Bono, at times
64. How to ‘Treat’ Elvis
65. Howard Jones ‘Hide And ___’
66. Clapton ‘Unplugged’ opener
67. Reggae man ___ -A-Mouse
68. Irish ‘Only Time’ singer
69. 90s dance music band ___ -Lite
27. Used for a slide in a bar
29. Rapper West
32. Leonard Cohen ‘So Long ___’
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60. Porcupine ___
63. David Bowie, ___ Ziggy Stardust

Down

1. Split Enz song, before The Goo Goo Dolls
2. Milli Vanilli, for one
3. Morrissey ‘The More You Ignore Me, The Closer ___ ___’ (1,3)
4. Metallica ‘___ Magnetic’
5. Kix ‘___ Wire’
6. ‘Sounds Like This’ Hutchinson
7. ‘Si No Te Hubieras Ido’ #1ers
8. Stevie Wonder sang for ‘The Secret Life’ of them
9. Alanis Morissette ‘Jagged ___ ___’ (6,4)
10. Ramones ‘___ Amigos’
11. ‘Inside The Electric Circus’ band
13. How Robert Palmer will get ‘Sally Through The Alley’
15. Like hours for seeing rehab rocker
17. Disturbed song off ‘Believe’
21. Scorpions ‘Sting In The ___’
23. What singer will do for competition
25. Motown band ___ Earth
26. Whitesnake ‘Slide ___ ___’ (2,2)
27. Used for a slide in a bar
29. Rapper West
32. Leonard Cohen ‘So Long ___’
34. Division of battle of bands event
36. Girlfriends: usually the ___ one
37. Mudvayne song they planted?
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60. Porcupine ___
63. David Bowie, ___ Ziggy Stardust

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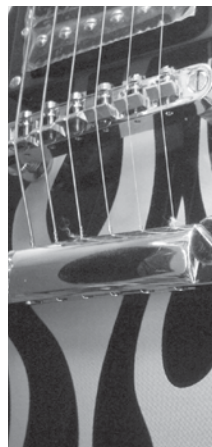
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NITE

On the scene



Band members of the world, unite and take over

Do you have an upcoming show? Make sure that even if the venue doesn't let us know, it gets listed in Music This Week by sending us updates of your upcoming gigs. Send locations, dates and times for your upcoming shows to music@hippopress.com. Send information by noon on Monday to get listed for the coming week. Or send us links to your regularly updated website or MySpace page.

... or you, with a club...

Does your bar/restaurant/coffeeshop frequently host musical performances? Send the information to music@hippopress.com along with your address and phone number so we can get you into the Music This Week. And if *you* regularly update your website or MySpace page, you can send us those links as well. Get the information in by noon on Monday to make the coming Thursday's paper.

... and if you are a music fan...

If you're out on the scene and see a show at a location not regularly listed in the Music This Week, let us know at music@hippopress.com. Our goal is to give you the most complete live music listings in the region each and every week.

TJ's: DJ Scuba

Meredith

Giuseppe's: Michael Bourgeois, DJ

Merrimack

The Homestead: Charlie Christos

Milford

Clark's: Mike Ordway
J's Tavern: Kim Riley
Pasta Loft: The Way Duo

Nashua

Amber Room: DJ Lou, DJ Danjah
Amsterdam: DJ Fody's: Jam Lab
Martha's Exchange: DJ Spivak
Peddlers: Ripcord
Studio 99: John Abercrombie
Wicked Twisted: Swampjuice

Newton

Hen House: DJ

Plaistow

The Dugout: DJ Boo
Sad Cafe: Cast Away, Evan Baird Trio, Xenia Sky, Afro Fisch

Portsmouth

Blue Mermaid: Stoop Captain

Gas Light: Josh Logan Band, Sev, Tony Sant-esse, DJ Koko P
Hilton Garden Inn: Jerry Short
The Page: DJ
Press Room: Professor Harp Blues Band

Red Door: Chris Gauthier and Marcus Caine
Rudi's: Ben Geyer

Salem

Chop Shop: Xrossed
Jocelyn's: DJ

Seabrook

Honey Pot: DJ

Saturday, July 21

Belmont

The Lodge: Jodie and Fried Cactus

In the spotlight



A night of hip-hop with Akrobatik

Milly's Tavern, 500 N. Commercial St., Manchester, will host a night of hip-hop on Saturday, July 21, at 9 p.m., that will feature Boston-area rap artist Akrobatik. Akrobatik, real name Jared Bridgeman, released his first single, "Ruff Enough," in 1998 and released his first full-length album, *Balance*, in 2003. He also performs with Mr.

Lif and DJ Fakts as The Perceptionists, a group that released its first album in 2005. DJ Myth, Ape the Grim & Undu-Kati, Phase Three, Dukes Of Hazzard, and The Ghattobooth will also perform at the Manchester show. The show is 18-plus, and tickets cost \$15 at the door.

In the spotlight



Another kind of Emo

Comedian Emo Philips will perform as part of the 21st Century Vaudeville show at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester, on Friday, July 20, at 8 p.m. Philips will be joined in the show by roots musician Samuel James, a storyteller with

a slide guitarist, local R&B band The River Birds, and ventriloquist Carla Rhodes. The show will also feature a screening of the Laurel and Hardy silent film *That's My Wife*, with live piano accompaniment by composer Jeff Rapsis. Tickets cost \$22.50 at palacetheatre.org or by calling 668-5588. Visit 2012looserthanloose.com.

Concord

Hermanos: CJ Poole's Sophisticated Approach
Makris: DJ Sean
Purple Pit: Phil Sargent
Tandy's: DJ

Dover

Brick House: Natalie Turgeon Band
Kelley's Row: Ronnie Leash
RJ's: DJ
Spaghetti Stain: Paul Harkins

Epping

Holy Grail: Side Car

Epsom

Circle 9 Ranch: Something To Think About
Exeter

Shooters: DJ Bigg Z

Gilford

Patrick's: Paul Warnick
Hampstead
Pasta Loft: Keith Lewis

Hampton

Wally's: JB5

Laconia

Margate: Vin Man
Naswa: DJ Terry Moran
Paradise Beach Club: Funnel

Londonderry

Coach Stop: Kieran McNally
Whippersnappers: Social Groove
Manchester

British Beer Co.: Delta Generators

City Sports Grille: DJ Club 313: DJ Bob

The Derryfield: Triple Tantrum, The Sundogs

Element: DJ Flex

Fratello's: Julie Dougherty

Jam Factory: Safer by the Shore, Hug the Dog, Evaporated, Evin Baird

Jokers: Dave Clark

Milly's: Akrobatik, DJ Myth, Ape the Grim, Undu-Kati, Phase Three, Dukes of Hazard, The Ghattobooth

Raxx: DJ Mike

Shaskeen: Irish sessions w/ Roger Burrige, Hot Day at the Zoo

Strange Brew: Erin

NITE

Harpe
TJ's: DJ Scuba

Meredith
Giuseppe's: David
Lockwood, No Limitz

Merrimack
The Homestead: Paul
Luff

Milford
Clark's: The Malcolm
Experience
J's Tavern: Raising
Scarlet
Memphis BBQ &
Blues: Professor Harp
Pasta Loft: Scooter
Way

Nashua
Amber Room: DJ
Fody's: Mad Express
Martha's Exchange:
DJ
Peddlers: Take 4
Polish American Club:
Phoenix
Wicked Twisted: Pulse

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid: Card-
stock
Gas Light: Kevin Burt,
Max Sullivan Band,
Dave Bundza, Keith
Henderson, DJ Koko P
Hilton Garden Inn:
Martin England
The Page: DJ
Press Room: jazz lunch
w/ Larry Garland, Fed-
erator No. 1, Afro Beat
Red Door: Mike Swells
Rudi's: Chris O'Neil

In the spotlight



Abercrombie on guitar

Legendary jazz guitarist John Abercrombie will take the stage at Studio 99, 17 Factory St., Nashua, on Friday, July 20, at 8 p.m. (doors at 7:30). Abercrombie, who picked up the guitar at age 14, went on his first tours while studying at Berklee College of Music. He was also a part of Dreams, a group formed by the Brecker Brothers, during the early years of his career, and has since recorded with Gil Evans, Gato Barbieri, Barry Miles, Ralph Towner, John Scofield, Joe Beck, Jan Garbarek and Eddie Gomez. He released his first solo album in the 1970s and has since released 50 over his 40-year career. Tickets cost \$10 at the door and the venue offers a \$5 BYOB option.

In the spotlight



Free jazz three

Spend your afternoon taking in a free performance by the Andy Frankhouse Jazz Trio at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, on Wednesday, June 25, at noon. The trio will perform as part of the library's Bach's Lunch Concert Series. The Andy Frankhouse Jazz Trio is led by Frankhouse, a composer and saxophonist, and features bassist Sean Farias and drummer Miki Matsuki. Coming up next in the concert series are classical pianist Soomi Lee on Aug. 1, The Nashua Symphony Chamber Players on Aug. 8, and Cosa Buena Nueva on Aug. 15. Visit nashualibrary.org.

Plaistow
Sad Cafe: The Resem-
blance Rock Band,
Good Riddance, Figure

8, Jesse Hardman, Rapid
Transit, Fatal Force

Salem

Jocelyn's: DJ

Seabrook
Chop Shop: 80 mph

CONCERTS

Venues

Capitol Center for the Performing Arts 44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com
The Colonial Theatre 95 Main St., Keene, 352-2033, thecolonial.org
Dana Humanities Center at Saint Anselm College 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, 641-7700, anselm.edu/dana
The Flying Monkey 39 S. Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com
Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom 169 Ocean Blvd., Hampton Beach, 929-4100, casinoballroom.com
Leddy Center 38c Ladd's Lane, Epping, 679-2781, leddycenter.org

Lowell Boarding House Park 40 French St., Lowell, Mass., www.lowellsummermusic.org
Lowell Memorial Auditorium East Merrimack Street, Lowell, Mass., 978-454-2299, lowellauditorium.com
Meadowbrook U.S. Cellular Pavilion 72 Meadowbrook Lane, Gilford, 293-4700, meadowbrook.net
The Middle Arts & Entertainment Center 316 Central St., Franklin, 934-1901, themiddlenh.org
The Music Hall 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusic-hall.org
The Old Meeting House, 1 New Boston Rd., Francestown
Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St.,

Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org
Prescott Park Arts Festival 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth, www.prescottpark.org, 436.2848
Rochester Opera House 31 Wakefield St., Rochester, 335-1992, rochesteroperahouse.com
Stockbridge Theatre Pinkerton Academy, Route 28, Derry, 437-5210, stockbridgetheatre.com
Tupelo Music Hall 2 Young Road, Londonderry, 437-5100, tupelohall.com
Verizon Wireless Arena 555 Elm St., Manchester, 644-5000, www.verizonwirelessarena.com
Whittemore Center Arena, UNH 128 Main St., Durham, 862-4000, www.whittcenter.com

• **Ben Taylor** Thurs., July 19, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
• **The Fab Four: The Ultimate Beatles Tribute** Thurs., July 19, at 8 p.m., Casino Ballroom
• **Santana** Thurs., July 19, at 8:30 p.m., Meadowbrook
• **Greg Brown** Fri., July 20, at 7 p.m., Prescott Park
• **Chris Smither** Fri., July 20, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
• **Dennis DeYoung: The Music of Styx** Fri., July 20, at 7:30 p.m., Lowell Boarding House Park
• **Liz Longley** Sat., July 21, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
• **Leon Russell** Sat., July 21, at 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey
• **Kenny Loggins** Sat., July 21,

at 7:30 p.m., Lowell Boarding House Park
• **Dueling Pianos** Sat., July 21, at 8 p.m., Boynton's Taproom
• **Guthrie Govan and Jon Finn** Sun., July 22, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
• **KC & the Sunshine Band** Sun., July 22, at 8 p.m., Casino Ballroom
• **Everclear, Sugar Ray, Gin Blossoms, Lit, Marcy's Playground** Sun., July 22, at 5 p.m., Meadowbrook
• **Daughtry** Mon., July 23, at 8 p.m., Casino Ballroom
• **The Offspring** Wed., July 25, at 8 p.m., Casino Ballroom
• **Kenny Rogers & the Oak Ridge Boys** Fri., July 27, at 8 p.m., Meadowbrook

• **Taj Mahal Trio** Fri., July 27, at 7 p.m., Prescott Park
• **Marc Cohn** Fri., July 27, at 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey
• **Klassic Kiss** Fri., July 27, at 7:30 p.m., Palace
• **Mindy Smith** Sat., July 28, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
• **Dueling Pianos** Sat., July 28, at 8 p.m., Boynton's Taproom
• **311, Slightly Stoopid** Sun., July 29, at 8 p.m., Meadowbrook
• **Lucinda Williams** Sun., July 29, at 7 p.m., Prescott Park
• **Jackson Browne, Sara Watkins** Mon., July 30, at 8 p.m., Meadowbrook
• **Snoop Dogg** Wed., Aug. 1, at 8 p.m., Casino Ballroom

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Sunday, AUG 12
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8/3 **Pat Metheny Unity Band**

8/4 **George Thorogood & the Destroyers**

8/10 **Lyle Lovett & His Acoustic Band**

8/17 **Livingston Taylor Liz Longley, Ken Yates**

8/18 **k. d. lang & the Siss Boom Bang**

8/24 **Gaelic Storm**

8/25 **Southside Johnny & the Asbury Jukes**

8/31 **The Brew**

9/1 **Collie Buddz & New Kingston**

9/7 **The Machine Pink Floyd Tribute**

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Apple Specialist

NITE

open mike

Sunday, July 22

Concord

Hermanos: John Fran-
zosa
Penuche's: open mike
w/ Steve Naylor

Dover

Brick House: DJ Erich
Kruger, Jim Dozet Trio
RJ's: DJ

Goffstown

Village Trestle: Wan-tu
Blues Band blues jam

Hampstead

Pasta Loft: Bill Bonnell

Hampton

Wally's: Evans Blue

Laconia

Naswa: Jah Spirit

Londonderry

Whippersnappers:
Matt Jackson

Manchester

900 Degrees: blues
open mike night w/ Tom
Ballerini
The Derryfield: Chad
LaMarsh

Jam Factory: Zanois
Shaskeen: sing-along
w/ the Spain Brothers
TJ's: Selecta 603 Ses-
sions

Meredith

Giuseppe's: open mike
w/ Lou Porrazzo

Nashua

Fody's: DJ Fizzgig and
Jay Danger

Newmarket

Stone Church: open
mike w/ Dave Ogden

Plaistow

Sad Cafe: DC Wonder,
The Runaround, Allo-
mancy

Portsmouth

Blue Mermaid: open
mike
Gas Light: Brooks
Hubbard, Rog & Ray,
open mike
Press Room: Trent Aus-
tin, Ryan Parker, Keala
Kaumeheiwā, Brooke
Sofferman
Red Door: Green Lion
Crew
Rudi's: jazz brunch w/
Sharon Jones

Monday, July 23

Candia

Henderson's Pickin'
Parlor: electric rock

open mike

Concord

The Barley House:
Andrew Merzi
Hermanos: John Fran-
zosa
Red Blazer: open mike
w/Matt Langley

Dover

Castaway's Boathouse:
Denis Patrick's Merry
Pranksters' open mike
**Orchard Street Chop
Shop:** open mike w/
Dave Ogden

Hampton

La Bec Rouge: open
mike w/ Elijah Clark
Wally's Pub: DJ

Manchester

The Derryfield: Josh
Logan
Fratello's: Rob Wolfe
Jam Factory: open
mike
TJ's: open mike w/
Scuba

Meredith

Giuseppe's: Lou
Porrazzo

Merrimack

The Homestead: Char-
lie Christos

Milford

J's Tavern: open mike
w/ Sam Kiri

Nashua

Fody's: DJ
Studio 99: ukelele club

Portsmouth

Gas Light: Dave Gerard
Press Room: Tim Webb
Combo
Red Door: Farthest For-
ests, Dubb Nubb, Guy
Capecelatro III

Tuesday, July 24

Concord

Barley House: Irish
sessions
Hermanos: Mike Walsh
Tandy's: open mike w/
Calvin McFarlin

Dover

Brick House: acoustic
open mike w/ Anthony
Vito Fiandaca
RJ's: DJ

Goffstown

Village Trestle: Scot
Gibbs and the Usual
Suspects

Hampstead

Pasta Loft: acoustic
open mike w/ Mike
Belkas

Londonderry

Whippersnappers:
video DJ

Manchester

The Derryfield: Brooks
Hubbard
Fratello's: Paul Luff
Raxx: DJ Mike
Shaskeen: John Cum-
ming
Strange Brew: Strange
Brew All Stars
TJ's: DJ Aubut
Wild Rover: open mike
w/Josh Logan, Nate
Comp and Paul Costley

Meredith

Giuseppe's: Michael
Bourgeois

Merrimack

The Homestead: Sev

Nashua

Fody's: DJ Mark Allen

Newmarket

Stone Church: blue-
grass jam w/ Dave
Talmage

Portsmouth

Gas Light: Doug
Thompson
Press Room: jazz jam
w/ Larry Garland, open
mike w/ Tom Yoder

Seabrook

Honey Pot: open mike

Wednesday, July 25

Allenstown

Ground Zero: Ground
Zero House Band

Antrim

Redneck's: open mike
w/ the Boogiemen

Auburn

Holiday's: DJ Captain
Chris

Boscawen

Alan's: open mike

Concord

Hermanos: Paul
Bourgelais
Tandy's: DJ

Dover

Fury's: open mike w/
Paul Chase
Three Chimney's Inn:
open mike

Epping

Holy Grail:

Gilford

Patrick's: DJ Sean
O'Brien

Hampton

La Bec Rouge: DJ
Kelly Elliott
Wally's Pub: DJ

Kingston

**The Carriage Towne
Bar & Grille:** Mike
Belkas

Laconia

Blackstone's: John
Menegon
Naswa: Joe McDonald

Manchester

The Derryfield: Gard-
ner Berry
Fratello's: Alli Beaudry
Jokers: MB Padfield
Strange Brew: David
Rousseau
TJ's: DJ Jonny Friday

Meredith

Giuseppe's: Bob Ruth-
erford

Merrimack

The Homestead: Brian
Gray

Milford

Clark's: open mike w/
Charlie Christos
Pasta Loft: open mike

Nashua

603 Lounge: open mike
w/ Kevin Horan
Off the Wall Lounge:
open mike
Sausage King: open
mike w/ John Borlaug

Newmarket

Stone Church: Celtic
jam

Peterborough

Harlow's Pub: open
mike

Portsmouth

Blue Mermaid: open
mike w/ Tom Brown
and Joe Harding
Gas Light: Kim Riley
& Tom Davis
Press Room: Dave
Talmage
Red Door: Red on Red
w/ Evaredy
Rudi's: Dimitri

Salem

Coffee Coffee: open
mike
Murray's: acoustic
open mike

Seabrook

Chop Shop: Reverend
JJ and the Casual Sin-
ners

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Friday, July 20

Manchester

Palace: Emo Phillips

Portsmouth

Music Hall: Nick
Lavallee & Super Secret
Project

Players Ring:

Sam
Bennett

Saturday, July 21

Hampton

Casino Ballroom: Lisa
Lampanelli

Manchester

Headliners: Derek
Tenatom

Portsmouth

Music Hall: Nick
Lavallee & Super Secret
Project

Monday, July 23

Concord

Penuche's: live standup

Tuesday, July 24

Manchester

Murphy's: live standup

Across

- 1 Old theater name
7 Actor Oka of “Heroes”
11 ____ Rida (“Low” performer with T-Pain)
14 Like some art exhibits
15 “By the look ____”
16 Ticket seating stat
17 Write down “Vast Asian country with a population of over a billion”?
19 ____ Productions (“Skyfall” company)

- 20 Notable time periods
21 Dinghy mover
22 James Cameron hit
24 Fifth qtrs.
25 Direct deposit abbr.
26 “Ten Summoner’s Tales” singer
27 Crazy situation in “The King’s Speech”?
31 ____ corpus
34 Tiny battery size
35 Arms requirement
36 On guard

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14							15					16		
17							18					19		
20					21				22		23			
24				25				26						
				27				28					29	30
31	32	33					34				35			
36							37				38			
39					40				41					
42				43					44					
			45					46				47	48	49
50	51						52				53			
54					55		56				57			
58					59					60				
61					62					63				

- 37 It ain’t nothing
38 Chris of the “American Pie” series
39 ____-Flush (former bathroom cleaner brand)
40 Poli ____ (college field of study)
41 They produce mushroom clouds
42 Steal a para-

- chute pants-wearing rapper’s plane?
45 Kate’s sitcom partner, in the 1980s
46 Guy’s counterpart
47 “____ du lieber!”
50 Malfunctions, like a printer
52 Endodontist’s degree: abbr.
53 Razor line introduced by Gillette
54 Inventor Whitney
55 Leader of the course “Denial 101”?
58 Actor Cheadle
59 Heidi of “Project Runway”
60 Ultimate
61 Favorite word of nitpicky grammarians
62 Himalayan giant
63 Slender

Down

- 1 Drive around southern California?
2 Like xenon, as gases go
3 Some Italian cars, for short
4 Piano teacher on “Family Guy”
5 Neutral shade
6 Chant from the cult horror classic “Freaks”
7 “SNL” alum Jay

- 28 Sofia Coppola’s aunt ____ Shire
29 Leave out
30 Mitt Romney’s entourage quintet
31 Chop into fine pieces
32 Half a ball game?
33 Hundreds of rap videos?
37 Pang
38 “Hooked on Classics” record label
40 It’s held going downhill
41 Best Picture winner of the 1980s
43 Really inelegant
44 “Oracular Spectacular” band
47 Playwright Fugard
48 Aim rival
49 “The Outcasts of Poker Flat” writer Bret
50 One who obeys The Force
51 Oodles
52 Moore of “G.I. Jane”
53 Wile E. Coyote’s supplier
56 Accommodate, with “up”
57 Off-roader

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(editor@jonesincrosswords.com)

7/12

EMF			JAKOB			ORAL	
LEO	TACOMA			DAZE			
FLUKY	PAPER			ETAS			
	NUKED	FLANDERS					
DRDRE			EKE	DIE			
HOYT	PANT		WOMAN				
LAO	RAGA		FAB				
DUKE	CODER	RING					
	OWE		IMOK		ELM		
TIBIA	PROG		SWEE				
ESA	RAE		RISER				
JUKED	CLAMP	PETT					
AZUL		IHEART	NYUK				
NULL		DARNED	LV				
OSAY		SMOOT			EAT		

- 8 Org. with a “100 Years...” series
9 “Witchcraft” singer
10 Type of type
11 Apps for nothing
12 “On Golden Pond” bird
13 Takes control of
18 “E! News” co-host
Sadler
23 Asthmatic’s item
25 Coup d’____
26 59-across’s ex
27 TV dramas, generally

All quotes are from Robin Williams, born July 21, 1951.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) “Some men are born great, some achieve greatness, some get it as a graduation gift. It’s OK!” Make the best you can of whatever you’ve got, and don’t apologize.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) “Why are we dropping Pop-Tarts and peanut butter on Afghanistan? ... Very difficult to have a call to jihad with a mouth full of peanut butter.” Assuming your opponents are sticklers about not talking with food in their mouths, you will rule the meeting with a dozen donuts and a Box O’ Joe.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) “Mother Theresa never had a line of products, she never had her own perfume” You don’t have to be a pop/reality star to commodify. What is your Cosmic Radiance by Britney Spears?

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) “I find the figure skating to be kind of sexy ... not ice dancing, which is polka on valium.” Dance to your own music and never mind the naysayers.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) “Canada is like a loft apartment over a really great party.” Ah, the unappreciated neighbor. Remember to invite them to the party so that when you need to borrow

a cup of sugar or you need help moving or to use their natural resources you are on good terms.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) “There is only one animal who can tell you if she is happy and wants to mate. That is Coco the silverback gorilla. And she saw me, the blue-eyed simian. She was intrigued ...” Romantic opportunities may arise.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) “The manly sport of golf, where ... the commentary’s electrifying — just this side of curling for getting me going. ... I want the guy who does Mexican soccer to do golf one time.” See if you can inject a little excitement into a humdrum activity. As with golf, in life drinking can often help with this.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) “Keith [Richards] is the only man who can make the Osbornes look ... Amish.” Remember: It’s all a matter of who you’re being compared to. Want to look taller? Stand next to a toddler. Want to look thinner? See if the Kool-Aid Man is available the next time you take a photo. Want to look mature and sophisticated? See if any of the Osbornes are available.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) “What is it, the Central Intuitive Agency now?” A little intelligence is always a good thing.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) “The Puritans, our ancestors: people so uptight the English kicked them out.” It only took a few centuries form them to learn to chillax. Don’t take so long to let your hair down.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) “Twitter broke the other day, and a lot of people were going, ‘My thumbs! My thumbs are moving for no reason!’” OK, time for a break from the electronics. The tech sabbath is the latest rage.

SIGNS OF LIFE

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) “Anybody who thinks the zoo is a happy place, go watch the monkeys wait for groups of schoolchildren.” It’s a zoo out there, and don’t act like a school-child. (Or a monkey.)

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

					1	3		
			8	5		6		1
		6			9			5
			7				1	8
4								2
5	1				2			
2			3			5		
9		1		4	8			
		7	9					

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

7/19

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Last week's puzzle answers are below

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SU
DO
KU

7/12

1	2	6	8	3	4	5	7	9
5	8	7	9	6	2	1	3	4
3	9	4	7	1	5	8	2	6
7	5	8	4	9	3	6	1	2
9	6	1	2	8	7	4	5	3
4	3	2	6	5	1	9	8	7
6	7	9	1	2	8	3	4	5
2	1	5	3	4	6	7	9	8
8	4	3	5	7	9	2	6	1

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD

Perspective

Of the world's 7 billion people, an estimated 2.6 billion do not have toilet access, and every day a reported 4,000 children die from sanitation-related illnesses. However, in May, in Portland, Ore., Douglas Eki and "Jason" Doctolero were awarded \$332,000 for wrongful firing because they complained about being inconvenienced at work by not having an easily available toilet. Menzies Aviation had arranged for the men to use facilities at nearby businesses at their Portland International Airport site, but the men said they felt unwelcome at those places and continued to complain (and use buckets). One juror said afterward that having easy access to a toilet was a "basic human right," citing the "dignity (of) being able to go to the bathroom within 30 seconds or a minute." Said Doctolero, "Hopefully, no one will have to suffer what I went through."

The Entrepreneurial Spirit

• When Sherry Bush returned home in Westlake, Ohio, in May, she found an "invoice" written on a napkin, left by "Sue Warren," billing her \$75 for a housecleaning that Warren had done while Bush was out. However, Bush never heard of Warren, and there had been reports by others in Westlake of Warren's aggressive acquisition of "clients." "Did you get the wrong house?" Bush asked Warren when she found "Sue Warren Cleaning" online. "No," said Warren, "I do this all the time. I just stop and clean your house." Warren was not immediately charged with a crime.

• Disgraced televangelist Jim Bakker still owes the IRS a reported \$6 million and now sells a line of "survival" products to help true believers live through the coming apocalypse. (It is unclear whether believers need to "survive," since the popular reading of the apocalypse casts it as a fast track to heaven for the faithful.) The Talking Points Memo blog did some comparative shopping and found many of Bakker's items to be overpriced by as much as 100 percent. Bakker also offers the devout a \$100 Silver Solution Total Body Cleanse Kit, which includes enemas.

Radical Science

• A start-up venture in Singapore announced in June that it has developed an adult diaper made of "Sofshell," a substance that hardens on contact and redistributes weight — so that if seniors fall on their rear ends, the impact will be absorbed with a lesser risk of broken bones. One of the developers demonstrated by dropping a bowling ball on a cellphone protected by the material, and the phone suffered not a scratch.

• Researchers at the National University of Singapore described, in a recent issue of the journal Biology Letters, how a certain species of male tropical spider seemingly improves its chances of successful mating by castrating itself after releasing sperm. The scientists hypothesize that testes-removal makes the male nimbler and better able to trick and outflank competitor males that attempt to reinseminate the same females. Improving their strategic mobility also enables the male to avoid being killed by the female, which is yet another hazard in the spider-mating process.

Critters' World

• **Suspicious Confirmed:** Scientists from Lund University's Primate Research Station Furuvik in Sweden announced in May that they had evidence that chimpanzees are able to delay using weapons they encounter, hide them and retrieve them later for use against "foes." The weapons were stones and chunks of concrete, and the foes were visitors to the zoo who annoyed the chimps. According to the researchers, the 33-year-old chimp Santino also took pains to hide the weapons in locations where they could be accessed easily for the element of surprise against the visitors.

• **Bullfighting** may be on the wane in some countries because of complaints about cruelty, but in the village of Aproz, Switzerland, there is a replacement each May: cow-fighting contests. According to a Wall Street Journal dispatch, this is a serious business, especially for Alain Balet, whose cow Manathan has won the heavyweight title for three years running, and who "follow(s) training regimens worthy of professional athletes," including engaging masseuses. The action, however, is mostly head-butting (plus "abundant slobber," reported the Journal), and the "contest" is won when one of the cows loses interest and wanders away. Balet pointed out an obvious additional pleasure in raising championship cows: "It's still a cow. I can eat her."

Leading Economic Indicators

• While top stars of World Wrestling Entertainment, such as John Cena and Triple H, earn upwards of several hundred thousand dollars a year in U.S. rings, pro wrestlers in Senegal can (in the wrestling variation called laamb) make almost that amount too. In May, the undefeated national "champion," the "King of the Arena" Yekini, suffered his first defeat in 15 years at the hands of Balla Gaye 2, before a capacity crowd at Demba Diop Stadium in Dakar, earning the combatants a reported equivalent of \$300,000 each. (Per capita income in the U.S. is about \$40,000

and in Senegal, \$1,900.)

• **Hard Times:** (1) In May, the Missoula (Mont.) Sheriff's Office was investigating the theft of a car from the victim's yard — a 1976 Ford Pinto (which, in addition to being a Pinto, had four flat tires). (2) In Mesa, Ariz., in May, Manuel Ovalle, 35, was charged with burglary after allegedly breaking into a home and taking a Playstation 3 and two bags of water from the home's swimming pool. (Ovalle told police his own home had no water supply.)

Readers' Choice

(1) A pair of mated giant tortoises that had lived in harmony for 115 years in zoos in Klagenfurt, Austria, are a couple no more, and apparently things ended badly. In June, the female Bibi bit off part of the male Pol-di's shell, and efforts to reconcile the pair, including using aphrodisiacs, proved futile. (2) Daniel Collins Jr., 72, was charged with aggravated assault in Teaneck, N.J., in June after allegedly threatening to shoot a 47-year-old neighbor. Collins said he was reacting to the neighbor's passing gas loudly outside Collins' apartment after the two men had been discussing noise.

Redneck Chronicles

Police in Decatur, Ala., were called to a home on South Locust Street in May on a report of a gunshot. They found that a 61-year-old man, who had been drinking beer to ease his toothache, had finally had enough and attempted to eliminate the tooth by shooting his jaw with a .25-caliber pistol. He was hospitalized.

Thanks This Week to Telaraj Webster, John Beyrau, Gary DaSilva, Peter Levy, and Michael Tubbs, and to the News of the Weird Board of Editorial Advisors. And for the accomplished and joyous cynic, try News of the Weird Pro Edition, at NewsOfTheWeird.blogspot.com.

THIS MODERN WORLD

REPUBLICAN JU-JITSU

THEY LONG AGO MASTERED THE ART OF TURNING A RIVAL'S STRENGTH INTO A WEAKNESS. I AM NOT GOING TO EXPLOIT, FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES, MY OPPONENT'S LACK OF EARLY-ONSET ALZHEIMER'S!



BUT--AS WITH SO MANY THINGS--THEIR CURRENT NOMINEE CAN'T QUITE SEEM TO GET THE HANG OF IT--

MITT ROMNEY OUTSOURCED AMERICAN JOBS DURING HIS TENURE AT BAIN CAPITAL!

BARACK OBAMA OUTSOURCED AMERICAN JOBS DURING HIS TENURE AT BAIN CAPITAL!



IN 2004, THE BUSH CAMPAIGN NEUTRALIZED JOHN KERRY'S WAR RECORD WITH BREATHTAKING CHUTZPAH.

HA HA HA! JOHN KERRY GOT A "PURPLE HEART" IN "VIETNAM"!

OH, THE POOR WIDDLE BABY! DID HE STUB HIS TOE OR SOMETHING?



--OPTING INSTEAD FOR THE MORE STRAIGHTFORWARD "I'M RUBBER, YOU'RE GLUE" STRATEGY.

MY OPPONENT NEEDS TO RELEASE HIS TAX RECORDS--AND CLARIFY EXACTLY WHEN HE LEFT BAIN!

MY OPPONENT NEEDS TO RELEASE HIS TAX RECORDS--AND CLARIFY WHEN HE LEFT BAIN!

YOU REALLY HAVE TO STOP THAT!



by TOM TOMORROW

AND AFTER THE MOST INARTICULATE PRESIDENT IN AMERICAN HISTORY LEFT OFFICE, REPUBLICANS TRIED TO MAKE TELEPROMPTERS AN ISSUE FOR HIS SUCCESSOR.

DO YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT OBAMA IS JUST READING THOSE WORDS HE SAYS OFF OF SOME SORT OF SCREEN?

I AM SHOCKED TO LEARN OF THIS DECEPTIVE TECHNIQUE, WHICH NO OTHER POLITICIAN HAS EVER UTILIZED!



HOW FAR HE'LL GO WITH THAT IS ANYBODY'S GUESS.

--AND IF YOU ASK ME, BARACK OBAMA IS THE REAL MORMON FORMER GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS AND SON OF GEORGE ROMNEY IN THIS RACE!

GOTTA LOVE THAT THICK, LUSTROUS HEAD OF HAIR, THOUGH!

AH, MITTENS--A WORD, PLEASE...?



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\$25
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mon

THE OFFSPRING

JUL 25
wed

EDDIE MONEY

JUL 26
thu

JIM GAFFIGAN
COMEDIAN

JUL 28
sat

AARON LEWIS
OF STAIN'D

JUL 31
tue

SNOOP DOGG

AUG 01
wed

**MIGHTY MIGHTY
BOSSTONES**

AUG 03
fri

BRANDI CARLILE

AUG 05
sun

SCOTTY McCREERY

AUG 09
thu

JOE WALSH

AUG 10
fri

GET THE LED OUT

AUG 11
sat

CITIZEN COPE

AUG 15
wed

ROGER HODGSON
THE VOICE OF SUPERTRAMP

AUG 16
thu

WANDA SYKES
COMEDIAN

AUG 17
fri

**KENNY WAYNE
SHEPHERD**

AUG 18
sat

**DAVE ATTELL AND
JIM NORTON** COMEDIANS

AUG 25
sat

**WARRANT AND
TRIXTER**

AUG 31
fri

GABRIEL IGLESIAS
COMEDIAN

SEPT 1
sat

RALPHIE MAY
COMEDIAN

SEPT 2
sun

DARIUS RUCKER

SEPT 6
thu

CHARLIE DANIELS

SEPT 14
fri

SLASH FEATURING
MYLES KENNEDY AND
THE CONSPIRITORS

SEPT 16
sun

BRET MICHAELS

SEPT 29
sat

**HUEY LEWIS AND
THE NEWS**

OCT 27
sat

CHRIS ISAAK

NOV 10
sat

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